

# Gone backwards: findings from the 2016 Australian aid transparency audit

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## Executive Summary

Transparency is now widely recognised as a vital aspect of aid effectiveness. This has been reflected in various Australian Government commitments to increase aid transparency in recent years. In spite of this, measures such as the Aid Transparency Index and the Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey have indicated declining transparency compared to other donors and to the Australian aid program's past performance.

An audit was conducted in order to assess the transparency of the Australian aid program at the project level as of mid-2016, as measured by the availability of information about aid-funded projects on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website. The methodology of the audit replicated, as closely as possible, an audit of the AusAID website conducted by the Development Policy Centre in mid-2013. Transparency was measured by the average availability of project data and documentation published on the bilateral program pages of DFAT website. A total of 239 projects for 27 countries and regional groupings were audited.

Two indices were developed: a 'preliminary project information index', and an 'availability of project documentation index'. Overall results reveal that the average availability of preliminary project information (e.g., project title and description, planned dates, and budget) has declined by almost 25 percentage points since the 2013 audit, from 79.3% to 54.5%. The average availability of project-level documentation (e.g., project designs, reports, and reviews) also fell. The extent of the decline depends on how some changes in document presentation are reflected. Our best measures show a decline from 41.9% in 2013 to 35.9% in 2016, a decrease of six percentage points. Scores were lower in 2016 in the categories of design documents and implementation documents, but had improved in the category of reviews and evaluations. On average, the most recent project reports and evaluations published on the DFAT website are two years old.

The availability of project documentation results were also compared by country, region, sector, and project size (as measured by average annual budget). The Philippines, Middle East and North Africa, and agriculture received the highest transparency scores in their respective categories. Compared to 2013, transparency scores were lower in 2016 for the majority of countries and for all sectors included in both audits. Particularly notable results include the low average availability of project documentation for projects in Papua New Guinea, the largest recipient of Australian aid (34.4%; 13<sup>th</sup> of audited countries), and the relatively low score for the Pacific region despite its salience within the aid program. Data analysis reveals that a statistically significant relationship exists between project size (as measured by average annual budget) and the availability of project documents, though there is substantial variation around the observed trend.

Various issues arose in the process of conducting the audit. These included difficulties finding and accessing documents; a lack of clarity regarding what happens to information related to completed and multi-phase projects; and inconsistencies in the presentation and relevance of information on the DFAT website. Improvements in each of these areas would significantly facilitate access to project-level information, and thus overall transparency in Australian aid.

The general decline in transparency is especially worrying in light of the progress made by some other OECD DAC aid donors. Some donors have become more transparent by using their participation in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) as a springboard. Australia's participation in IATI has not so far had much of a pay-off for transparency, but could if DFAT were to make the data it has submitted to IATI more easily accessible, as other donors have done.

Several other recommendations are made based on the audit findings. One key recommendation is that DFAT develop a dynamic database, rather than static listings, for publishing project-level information. In terms of which documents are made available on the website, the default position should be that all relevant documents are made publicly available unless confidentiality will be compromised as a result, and this should be closely monitored. Other initiatives such as establishing an annual target for the publication of documentation would also have a positive effect on transparency and accountability in the Australian aid program. Most important of all, elevating and reiterating the bureaucratic and political commitment to aid transparency could be expected to have a high return.

The decline in project level transparency in the Australian aid program between 2013 and 2016 is particularly disappointing in light of the relatively low base documented in the 2013 audit. It should not have been difficult for the Coalition government to improve on Labor's record in relation to aid transparency, and yet it failed to do so. It is acknowledged that achieving a high level of transparency in the Australian aid program is a task that requires resources, attention and a certain level of risk. However, these factors should not deter DFAT from pursuing a more transparent aid program.

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## Introduction

Transparency is a vital aspect of any foreign aid program, contributing to accountability and enhancing public knowledge. In Australia, aid program transparency has been highlighted as a priority by successive governments. Previously, information relating to Australia's aid program was published on the AusAID website, but is now available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website. Not long after coming to power, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said that the aid program within DFAT under the Liberal-National Coalition government would be "more transparent", "more open", and "more effective" than it was with AusAID under Labor. DFAT itself now says on its website that it is "committed to high standards of transparency and accountability."

This transparency audit was conducted to determine whether or not the Coalition government has achieved this objective, and whether DFAT is following through on its commitments. 'Transparency' here is measured by the amount and type of project-level information made publicly available on the DFAT website. An earlier audit of the AusAID website, conducted by Hanna Wilma Gillies with the support of Jonathan Pryke of the Development Policy Centre in mid-2013 (just prior to the election of the Coalition government, and before the re-integration of AusAID into DFAT), systematically examined the availability of data and documentation at the project level. (While the 2013 audit was not published, a blog post summarizing its findings can be found [here](#).) The 2013 audit provides a valuable baseline against which current project-level transparency in the Australian aid program can be assessed.

This paper presents the findings of the 2016 Australian aid transparency audit, which was conducted between June and August 2016. It first provides some background on movements towards increased transparency both globally and within the Australian aid program, before going on to describe the methodology and rationale behind the audit process. The subsequent presentation of results describes both overall measurements of transparency as well as the availability of project-level documentation by country, region, sector, and project size (as measured by average annual budget). The final sections of the report discuss various issues encountered during the audit, and propose recommendations to address them and improve transparency within the aid program.

Encouragingly, there have been some improvements in transparency between 2013 and 2016. The average availability of review and evaluation documents on the DFAT website increased by nearly seven percentage points. The Philippines (country), Middle East and North Africa (region), and agriculture (sector) received the highest transparency scores in their respective categories. However, the overall average availability of both preliminary project information and project-level documentation published by DFAT has declined since 2013. The average availability of project documentation was lower in 2016 for 9 of the 16 countries that were audited in both 2013 and 2016. It was also lower in all of the six comparable sectors.

In general, the audit results demonstrate that despite commitments to transparency, the overall availability and accessibility of project-level information within the Australian aid program has not improved. Rather, it has declined over the last three years.

## Background

Transparency is now widely recognized as an integral component of the international aid effectiveness agenda. Successive [high level forums and declarations](#) since 2002 have

affirmed the importance of making detailed information about aid and development cooperation available for public review. Doing so has [benefits for all stakeholders](#): not only does increased transparency enable donor country citizens to better understand how their tax dollars are used and donor governments to better evaluate their programs, but it also empowers recipient country citizens to hold their governments to account and recipient governments to improve their planning and budgeting. A high level of transparency also promotes cooperation between donors and recipients to maximize development impacts.

In line with increased global attention to transparency in aid, several high-profile commitments to increased transparency and accountability within the Australian aid program have been made in the last five years. In November 2011, the Labor Government adopted a [Transparency Charter](#) which required AusAID to publish “detailed information on AusAID’s work ... in a timely fashion and in a format that is useful and accessible”. Though the Charter by no means launched a transparency revolution in Australian aid, it was widely lauded by the aid community and did result in the increased public availability of detailed documents about projects funded by the aid program. In the first [Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey](#), conducted by the Development Policy Centre in 2013, respondents considered transparency to be one of AusAID’s greatest strengths.

Upon its election in 2013, the Liberal-National Coalition Government dropped the Transparency Charter, but went on to make further commitments to transparency in the aid program. Following an address to the ACFID Council in October 2013, newly appointed Foreign Minister Julie Bishop [indicated](#) that “As transparent as AusAID has been, we can be more transparent; as open, we can be more open; as effective, we can be more effective.”

But while the rhetoric was impressive, subsequent developments did not appear to match it. The Blue Book, a ministerial statement of aid budget information customarily released with the Federal Budget, [was not published in 2014 or 2015](#). Project-level information also disappeared entirely from the DFAT website for a period of several months in mid-2014.

Other indicators also suggest that the aid program’s commitments to improved transparency have yet to meet with sufficient action. The DFAT website [states](#) that it is committed to “high standards of aid program transparency and accountability”, and that it “participates in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and makes project level information available through the IATI Register”, updated on a quarterly basis. However, the Extensible Markup Language (XML) format in which DFAT exclusively [publishes its IATI data](#) makes it difficult to [usefully interpret](#), particularly when compared to the sophisticated data manipulation tools and portals that other OECD DAC donors are increasingly making available. Australia’s performance in the [Aid Transparency Index](#), an international comparison which ranks donor organisations on both the quantity and quality of information they publish about their aid programs, also suggests that the aid program’s performance has not improved significantly relative to other donors. Though AusAID doubled its score between 2011 and 2012 to reach its [highest ranking](#) – 18<sup>th</sup> – in 2012, the aid program slipped to 24<sup>th</sup> in 2013 and 25<sup>th</sup> in [2014](#). Australia’s score improved in absolute terms between 2014 and 2016, from 45.9% to 49.9%, but relative to other donors remains in [25<sup>th</sup> place](#).

As well as falling in comparison to other donors, there is also a perception among stakeholders that the performance of the Australian aid program on transparency has slipped relative to its own past performance. Whereas in 2013 more than 50% of stakeholders rated transparency as a great or moderate strength of the Australian aid program, in the [2015 Australian Aid Stakeholder Survey](#) more than 50% rated it as a great or moderate weakness.

The [Review of Operational Evaluations completed in 2014](#) published by DFAT's Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) found that only 38% of operational evaluations produced in the 2014 calendar year had been published by July 2015, despite the fact that publication of evaluations is mandatory. (Two additional evaluations – 3% of total evaluations – were exempted from publication). The [Quality of Australian aid operational evaluations](#) report, which reviewed operational evaluations produced in the 2012 calendar year, found that 48% had been published by September 2013 (p. 15), again demonstrating a decline against previous performance.

From late 2015, there does appear to have been some progress within DFAT in terms of both publishing documents on the DFAT website and reporting to IATI. In [Performance of Australian Aid 2014-15](#), DFAT reported that it had released over 300 new aid-related documents on its website since June 2014 (p. 6). Following a two-year hiatus, the Blue Book was replaced by an [Orange Book](#) (formally titled the 'Australian Aid Budget Summary') in 2016.

## Methodology

To the greatest extent possible, the 2016 transparency audit replicated the methodology of the 2013 transparency audit of the AusAID website, in order to allow for comparison of results over time. Because of this, data sources were limited to the bilateral program (country) pages of the DFAT website.

As in 2013, the focus of the audit is at the project level. This is based on the belief that the project (or activity) level is the bedrock of aid transparency. The Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (held in 2011 in Busan) called on donors to make “the full range of information on publicly funded development activities, their financing, terms and conditions, and contribution to development results” publicly available. If one of the [primary purposes of aid transparency](#) is to enable more effective allocation of funds and greater accountability to the citizens of both donor and recipient countries alike, then access to detailed information at the project level is critical. Without project level transparency, reporting at the country, sectoral or program level is of limited value.

Preliminary audit data were collected in July 2016 by Virginia DeCourcy and cross-checked by Camilla Burkot.

As in the 2013 audit, all aid-recipient countries in the 'Pacific' region, plus Indonesia, were audited. In addition, in 2016 half of the countries/regional groupings in the 'South East and East Asia', 'South and West Asia', and 'Middle East and North Africa' regions were audited; the countries/regional groupings audited were randomly selected. As in 2013, Latin America and the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa were excluded from the audit given that only a small proportion of Australian aid now flows to these regions. A total of 27 countries and regional groupings were included in the 2016 audit, up from 16 in 2013. Within each selected country, every project listed on the country's



webpage(s) on the DFAT website was examined to measure transparency. Seven countries<sup>1</sup> included in the 2016 audit had no projects listed, so these countries did not contribute to the analysis. (All of the countries selected in 2013 had at least one project listed.)

Two indices developed in the 2013 audit were replicated in 2016.

The first index is a preliminary project information index, which rates projects according to the availability of basic information about the project. Information meant to be provided in 2013 was: the provision of a project title and brief description; the project start and end dates; the current status of the project (under planning, being implemented, or completed); total project budget; and the previous year's expenditure. In 2016, project status and previous year's expenditure were no longer provided for any project. In each of the 2013 categories, projects were given a score of 1 if this information was provided, and 0 if this information was not provided.

The second index is the availability of project documentation index. The availability of project documents on the DFAT website were assessed across the four document categories used by AusAID in 2013, reflecting the four stages of what was referred to under AusAID as the 'aid management cycle'. In each category projects were given a score of 1 if at least one document was available, and 0 if no documents were available. The categories and inclusion criteria are shown in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Availability of project documentation index criteria*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Inclusion criteria</b>
<b>1. Policy and Direction Setting</b>	Documents that outline DFAT's planned approach to aid activities in the recipient country. For a score of 1, at least one document containing higher-level analysis on the recipient country or sector. Acceptable documents include: statement of commitment; Memorandum of Understanding; aid country strategy; subsidiary agreement; baseline research. Final evaluations for previous phases of a project and similar documents (which provide detailed information about the context informing a project) are also counted.
<b>2. Plan and Design</b>	Documents that explain how the activity should be undertaken. For a score of 1, at least one document demonstrating the planning and design behind project activities. Acceptable documents include: work plans; design documents; concept documents/notes; quality at entry reports.

<sup>1</sup> These countries were: Tokelau, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Maldives, and Iraq humanitarian response.

<b>3. Implementation and Performance Management</b>	Documents that report on the outputs of aid activities and whether these outputs achieved their objectives. For a score of 1, at least one document demonstrating the relationship between intended and actual outcomes. Acceptable documents include: any reporting documents, such as monitoring report; progress report; annual program report; analytical reports.
<b>4. Review and Evaluation</b>	Documents evaluating the performance of aid activities (as against reporting progress, which are counted in the third category). For a score of 1, at least one document detailing a mid-term or final evaluation. Acceptable documents include: mid-term reviews; independent completion reports; evaluation reports (including reports undertaken by the Office of Development Effectiveness in DFAT).

At the project level, the DFAT website provides links to individual project documents and, in some cases, one or more 'related links' (hyperlinks to external websites). Whether or not a document was counted as 'available' was based on the documents listed under each project on the DFAT website, as well as documents found through related links. Often, related links to websites of development partners such as the Asian Development Bank or World Bank yielded obvious, easy-to-find, and relevant project-level documents. In some cases, however, related links led to websites that were difficult to navigate and/or whose relevance was unclear. In cases where the related website was difficult to navigate, searches for documents were limited to what was assumed to be reasonable amount of time for a member of the public to search for a document. (In some instances, links were broken or led to the incorrect document or website. These instances were recorded and will be provided to DFAT).

In cases where the most appropriate category in which to classify a project document was unclear, the project and category was flagged, discussed by the two researchers, and a final determination made. No document was counted in more than one category. Where a document included elements relating to more than one category (for example, policy and direction setting elements as well as plan and design elements), the document was counted in whichever category was determined to be the greater focus of the document.

## Results

Following the methodology described above, a total of 239 projects in 27 countries and regional groupings listed on the DFAT website were audited. This section presents the findings of the 2016 transparency audit, and highlights comparisons with the 2013 audit where possible. Headline findings are presented first, including scores on the two indices developed in the 2013 audit: the preliminary project information index and the availability of project documentation index. These are followed by comparative findings, which examine relative transparency by country, region, sector, and project size.

## Main findings

### Preliminary project information index

Availability of basic project information on country pages of the DFAT website has decreased since 2013, when the average preliminary project information index score was 79.3%. Preliminary project information availability in 2016 scored 54.5% (Table 2).

**Table 2: Overall preliminary project information index score**

Year	Title & project description	Planned dates	Current status	Previous financial year expenditure	Project budget	Average score
2013	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	48.9% (FY 2012/13)	47.6%	79.3%
2016	99.6%	86.2%	0.0%*	0.0%* (FY 2015/16)	86.6%	54.5%
<i>2016 using only countries included in both audits</i>	99.4%	84.7%	0.0%	0.0%	86.6%	54.1%

*\*These categories are no longer provided on the DFAT website in 2016 as they were on the AusAID website in 2013; hence the zero score in both categories.*

The drop in the overall preliminary project information index score is due primarily to the elimination of two pieces of information that were provided previously on the AusAID website: the current status of the project (e.g., started; implementing; completion), and project expenditure in the previous financial year.

Across the other components of this index, availability of information has increased since 2013, with the exception of information about planned project start and end dates. The 2016 audit findings show that the availability of information about planned dates has declined, from 100.0% availability to 86.2%. Where this information is missing it was mainly from ongoing programs, such as Australia Awards and volunteer programs (though, importantly, some countries did indicate dates for these). One project was also missing a project description (defined in the audit methodology as 'at least one supporting sentence explaining the project').

The availability of information about project budgets nearly doubled between 2013 and 2016. 86.6% of projects audited (n=207) in 2016 provided a total project budget, compared to just 47.6% in 2013.

If current status and previous year's expenditure are excluded from the average calculation, the 2016 average score rises from 54.5% to 90.8%. It is good that there is some improvement, but these two categories of data still seem important. While in most cases current status could be inferred from the project dates, many projects are extended, so explicit information about project status would still be useful. Even if current status is dropped from the average calculations for both years, the score falls from 74.1% in 2013 to 68.1% in 2016.

Similarly, comparing only those countries that were included in both the 2013 and 2016 audits results in an overall preliminary project information score of 54.1%, or 67.7% when current status is dropped from the calculation.

On these bases, we conclude that the overall availability of preliminary project information has worsened.

#### Availability of project documentation index

DFAT no longer categorizes documents in the way that AusAID did. It also no longer links directly to country strategies from individual projects. However, in many cases such documents – at least country strategies – can be found on other parts of the website. To prevent penalizing DFAT on this basis, when we calculate the overall average availability score we disregard the first category, policy and direction setting documents. (Definitions of the types of documents considered in each category is provided in the Methodology section above). This calculation is used to provide average availability of project documentation scores throughout the remainder of this paper.

In 2013, the overall availability of project documentation index received a score of 41.9%. In 2016, the score dropped to 35.9%, or 35.7% if calculated only for those countries included in both the 2013 and 2016 audits (Table 3).

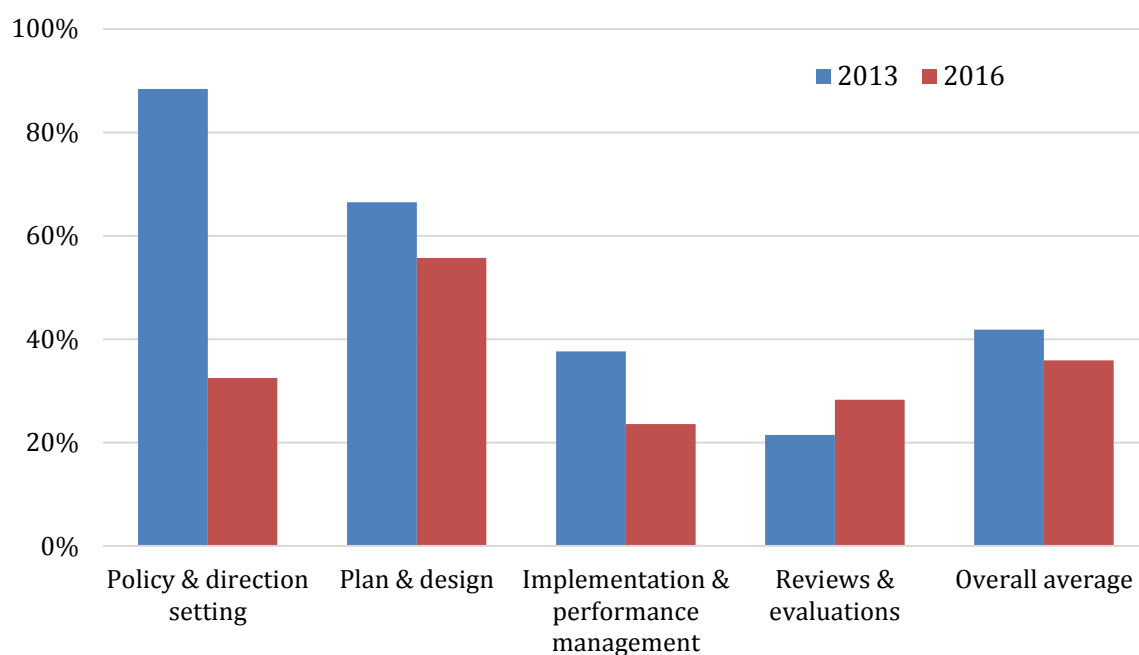
**Table 3: Overall availability of project documentation index score**

Year	Policy and direction setting documents	Design and plan documents	Implementation and performance management documents*	Reviews and evaluations*	Average score	Average score including category 1
2013	88.4%	66.5%	37.6%	21.5%	41.9%	53.5%
2016	32.5%	55.7%	23.6%	28.3%	35.9%	35.0%
<i>2016 using only countries included in both audits</i>	33.5%	55.5%	20.8%	30.8%	35.7%	35.1%

*\*Only projects that commenced in or before 2011 (for the 2013 audit) and in or before 2014 (for the 2016 audit) were included in the analysis.*

In order to avoid unduly penalizing relatively new projects, the availability of implementation and performance management documents, and project reviews and evaluations, was calculated only for projects which commenced in or before 2014 (for the 2016 audit) and in or before 2011 (for the 2013 audit).

**Figure 1: Average availability of project documentation, 2013 & 2016**



*Note: The overall averages shown in this figure exclude the scores for policy & direction setting documents, for reasons discussed above.*

The biggest change from 2013 occurred in the average availability of policy and direction setting documents. As shown in Figure 1, the average score in this category dropped by more than 50 percentage points in 2016 (when country strategies and similar overarching documents not listed under individual projects, such as Aid Investment Plans and Aid Program Performance Reports, are excluded from the audit, as they were in 2013). As noted above, this change likely reflects the fact that aid recipient country strategies are available elsewhere on the DFAT website, but are quite sensibly no longer listed under each individual project.<sup>2</sup> It is for this reason that we exclude the score for policy and direction setting documents from the overall average calculations.

The average availability of plan and design documents, and implementation and performance management documents also declined between 2013 and 2016, each by more than 10 percentage points.<sup>3</sup> However, it was encouraging to find that the availability of project reviews and evaluations has increased since 2013 by nearly seven percentage points overall, from 21.5% to 28.3%, and by nearly ten percentage points when focusing only on those countries included in both audits, to 30.8%. Additionally, nearly half (48.3%) of projects audited in 2016 included one or more 'related links' to another webpage that provided additional information about the specific project and/or context.

<sup>2</sup> If aid country strategies and other overarching policy and direction setting documents were considered as part of the audit (which would give the 'policy and direction setting' category a score of 100%), the resulting overall average availability of project documentation index score would be 51.9% – a small decline from the 2013 score of 53.5%. However, this would underestimate the decline as it is likely that the 2013 scores under this category would also improve using this approach.

<sup>3</sup> In the 2013 audit, country-level plans and reports, such as annual portfolio performance reviews, were sometimes found but not counted as implementation and performance management documents (or "project reports" as they were referred to in the 2013 audit). So DFAT is not being penalized for (sensibly) only providing these country-level reports at central (non-project) locations on its website.

## Average release year of most recent project reports and reviews

In addition to recording the availability of project documentation, the timeliness of documentation release was also noted. For this, we focused on documents in the two latter categories: implementation and performance management documents ('project reports'), and reviews and evaluations ('project reviews').

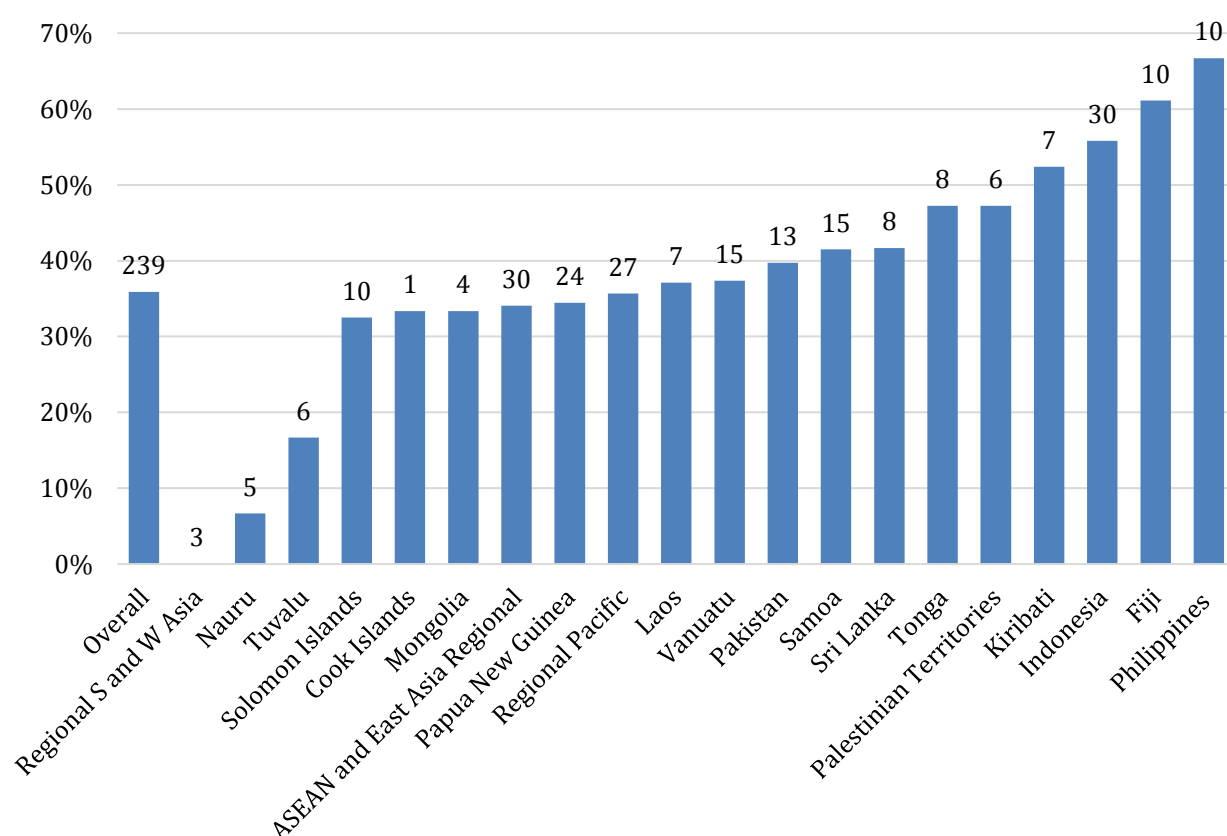
For projects which commenced in or before 2014, the average release year of the most recent project report or review was 2014 (range: 2011–2016). The 2013 audit also found that the most recent project report or review published online was on average about two years old.

## Comparative findings

### Availability of project documentation by country

The spread of average project documentation availability by country provides a snapshot of the relative transparency of Australia's bilateral aid programs. Figure 2 shows the availability of project documentation (averaged across all projects) for each country/regional grouping included in the 2016 audit.

**Figure 2: Average availability of project documentation by country**



*Notes: Data labels show the number of projects audited in each country. No projects were listed nor project-level documentation provided for seven countries (Tokelau, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Maldives, Iraq humanitarian response); these countries are excluded from Figure 2.*

The Philippines has the most impressive result, with an overall average document availability of 66.7 per cent. This is especially notable considering that the Philippines ranks only equal 8<sup>th</sup> in terms of the number of projects listed on the DFAT website (n=10; tied with Solomon Islands and Fiji), and 5<sup>th</sup> in terms of budget allocation (\$81.9 million in the 2016-17 financial year; total Australian ODA estimate). Fiji has the second highest availability score (61.1%), again somewhat surprising considering its number of projects and 2016-17 budget allocation (\$76.9 million, 6<sup>th</sup> out of audited countries). Indonesia, Australia's second highest aid recipient, comes in third with an average document availability score of 55.8 per cent.

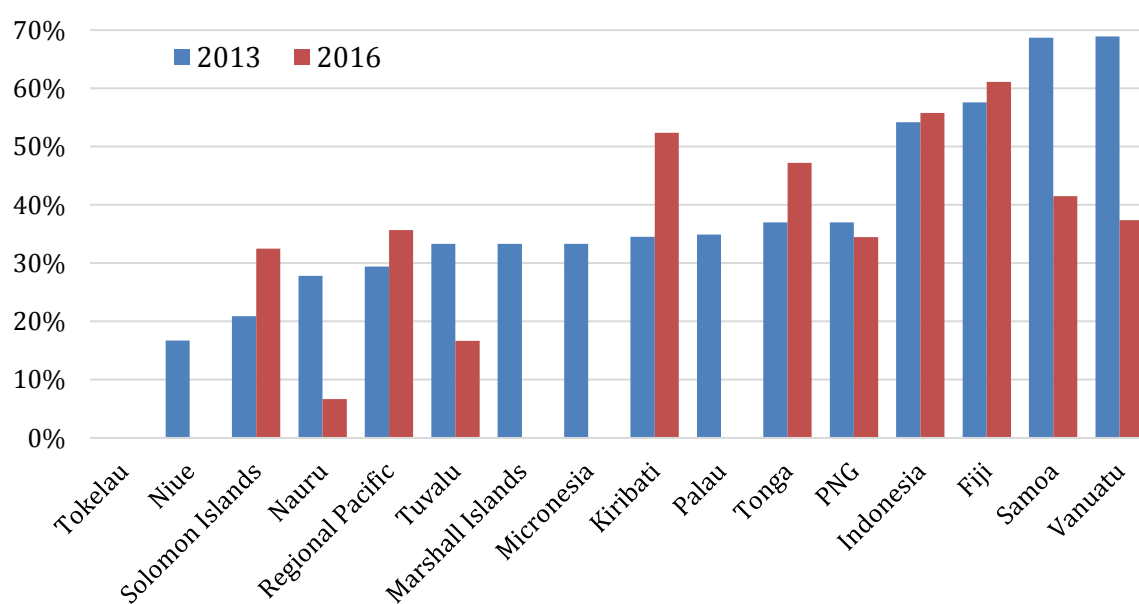
Countries faring worse in terms of project-level transparency are generally less surprising, with Nauru (16<sup>th</sup> of 20 in terms of budget allocation) and Tuvalu (19<sup>th</sup> of 20) sitting at the lower end of the spectrum. Regional South and West Asia was the only country or regional grouping to list individual projects without providing any documentation at all.

Notably, Papua New Guinea ranks 13<sup>th</sup> of the 27 countries audited in terms of average documentation availability, despite being the biggest bilateral recipient of the Australian aid funding (\$558.3 million in 2016-17), and having a relatively high number of projects listed on the DFAT website (n=24; 4<sup>th</sup> of audited countries).

Detailed availability of project documentation index results for each country can be found in the appendix (A3).

Figure 3 shows the average availability of project documentation by country for all those countries which were included in both the 2013 (blue bars) and 2016 (red bars) audits. As the figure indicates, there is significant variation between countries in terms of average availability of project documentation. On average, and including those countries which no longer provide any project-level information on the DFAT website, there was a decline of 10.4 percentage points between 2013 and 2016. Excluding those countries, there was a decline of 4.4 percentage points.

**Figure 3: Average availability of project documentation by country, 2013 & 2016**





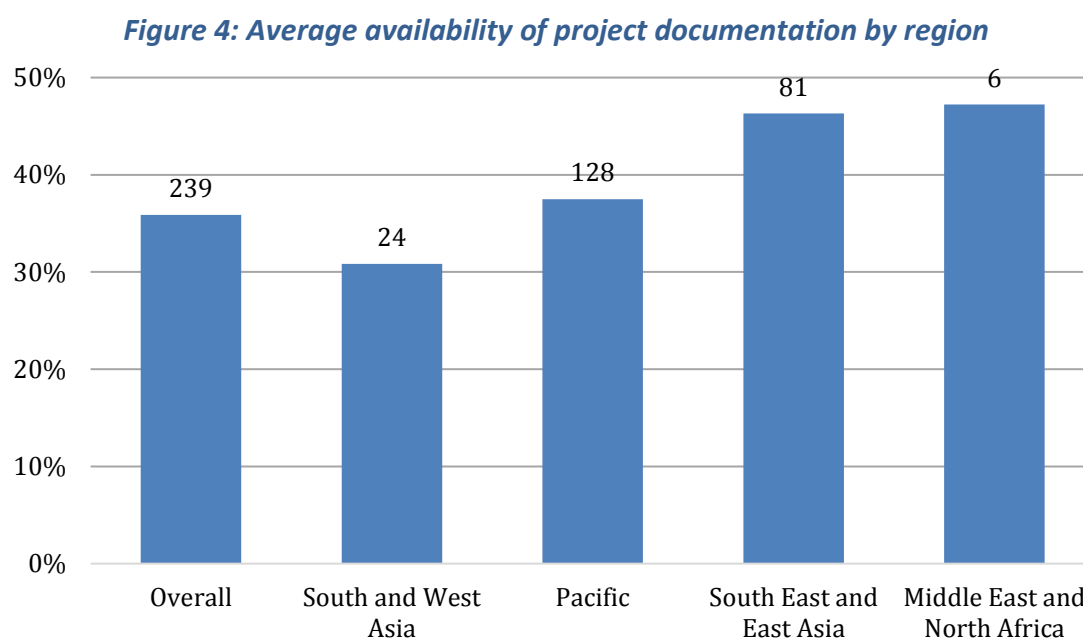
*Notes: No scores for Tokelau, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands and Micronesia are given for 2016 due to a lack of individual project listings for these countries (i.e., they should be considered as missing values). Tokelau listed two projects in 2013 but received an average availability of project documentation index score of 0.0% in that year.*

Average document availability for Vanuatu, which had the highest score in the 2013 audit (68.9%), dropped to 37.4% in 2016. Other notable drops include Samoa (68.7% in 2013 to 41.5% in 2016), Tuvalu (33.3% in 2013 to 16.7% in 2016), and Nauru (27.8% in 2013 to 6.7% in 2016).

There were notable improvements in select cases, however. Among them were Kiribati (34.5% in 2013 to 52.4% in 2016), Solomon Islands (20.9% in 2013 to 32.5% in 2016), and Tonga (37.0% in 2013 to 47.2% in 2016).

### Availability of project documentation by region

To what extent are there regional differences in the levels of document availability? Figure 4 shows the average availability of documentation in the four regions audited: the Pacific; South and West Asia; South East and East Asia; and Middle East and North Africa.



*Note: Data labels show the number of projects audited in each region. Detailed data can be found in Appendix A3.*

DFAT [highlights](#) that the Australian aid program focuses on the Pacific for two reasons: “national interest” and recipient country need based on “development challenges”. This focus is demonstrated by the proportion of [Australian ODA](#) allocated to the region (\$1.14 billion in 2016-2017; 29.7% of total Australian ODA), and the number of projects listed on the DFAT website (n=128).

However, the volume of aid directed to the Pacific has not translated into greater project-level transparency there. Despite the Pacific being by far the biggest recipient of Australian aid by region, it ranks third of the four regions in terms of the average availability of project documentation, with a score of 37.5%. Middle East and North Africa ranks highest in the 2016 audit at 47.2%. However, this score reflects average

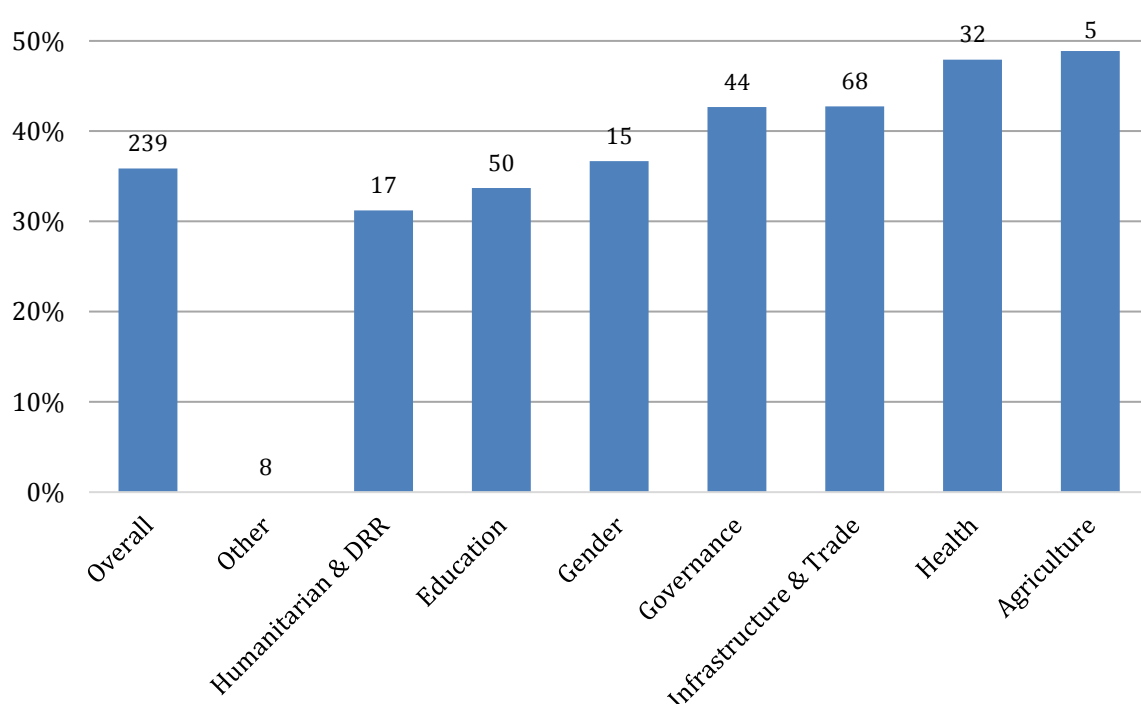


project documentation availability for only six projects, most of which are managed in partnership with other multilateral donors. South East and East Asia ranked second (46.3%), and South and West Asia fourth (30.8%).

#### Availability of project documentation by sector

Each project included in the audit was classified into one of seven sectors: infrastructure and trade; agriculture; governance; education; health; humanitarian and disaster risk reduction (DRR); and gender (Figure 5). An ‘other’ sector was also designated to capture eight projects not fitting into one of those seven sectors or which incorporated multiple sectors (e.g., Australian Volunteers for International Development programs).

**Figure 5: Average availability of project documentation by sector**



Notes: Data labels show the number of projects audited in each sector. DRR = disaster risk reduction. Detailed data can be found in Appendix A1.

The seven sectors were chosen to align with the priority sectors identified in DFAT’s guiding aid policy document, [Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability](#) (2014), which are:

- Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness
- Agriculture, fisheries and water
- Effective governance: policies, institutions and functioning economies
- Education and health<sup>4</sup>
- Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection
- Gender equality and empowering women and girls

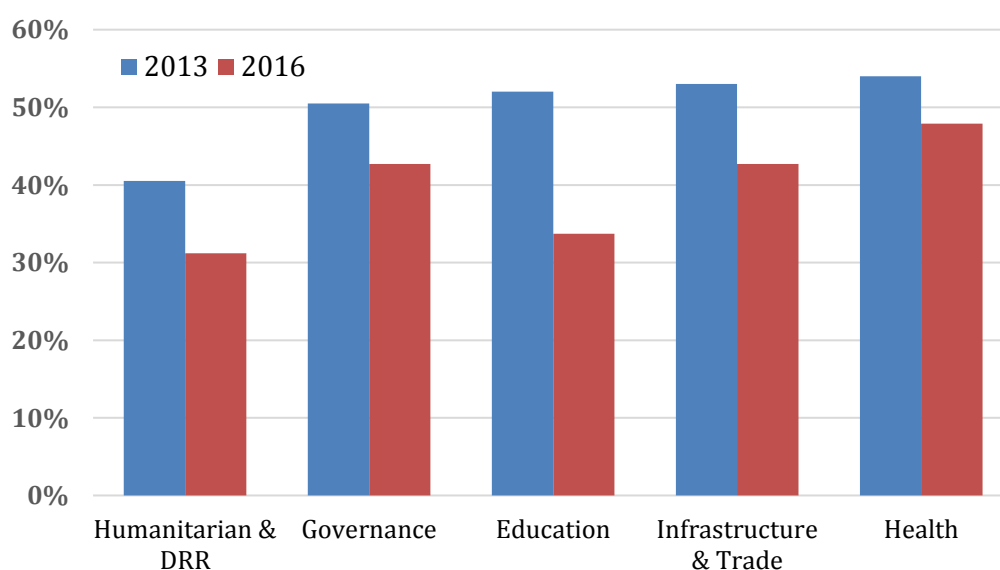
<sup>4</sup> In the 2016 audit, education and health was split into two sectors in order to allow for comparison with 2013 findings, as shown in Figure 6.

DFAT's [aid policy platform](#) states that the key aims of the Australian aid program are “supporting private sector development and strengthening human development”. To an extent this prioritisation is reflected in the audit data, with infrastructure and trade making up the greatest proportion of the projects included in the audit (28.5%; n=68). However, as seen in the country and regional comparisons above, this has not translated into a particularly high transparency score; collectively infrastructure and trade has the third highest score of 42.7%, tied with governance. Agriculture had the highest overall average documentation availability score (48.9%), but this reflects documentation for only five projects.

Notably, the ‘other’ sector had a transparency score of 0%, meaning that no documents available for projects classified in this sector. This sector was comprised mainly of programs such as Australian Volunteers for International Development and the Australia Awards. These programs have a slightly different target than others, with funding allocated to specific individuals or NGOs. Nevertheless, transparency is still an important concern in these programs, and publication of documents pertaining to them (e.g., details related to selection criteria and processes for awarding [Australia Awards scholarships](#), which are managed largely at posts and so vary significantly across countries) should not be overlooked.

Changes in overarching aid policy which resulted in changes in the sectors identified by the aid program means that the findings of the 2013 and 2016 audits can only be compared approximately. Not only are all sectoral documentation scores lower in 2016 as compared to 2013, but also there is now an increased range in the average availability of documentation across the sectors (Figure 6). However, of the sectors that are comparable, humanitarian and disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects remain the least transparently documented (which may reflect the more rapid design and implementation of humanitarian projects), and health projects the most transparently documented.

**Figure 6: Average availability of project documentation by sector, 2013 & 2016**



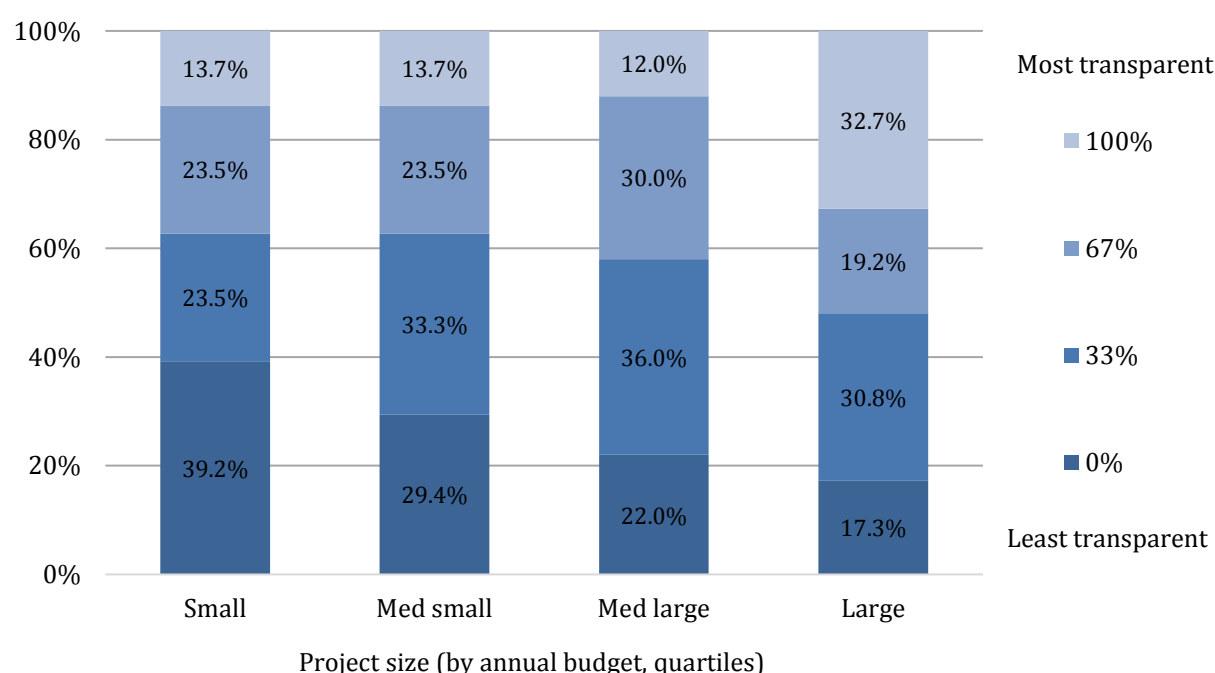
*Notes: This figure compares the 2013 category ‘economic development’ with the 2016 category ‘infrastructure and trade’. Detailed data can be found in Appendix A1.*

## Availability of project documentation by project size

In the discussion above, we suggested that there appears to be little correlation between the proportion of the aid budget allocated to a country or region, and its project-level transparency. However, is there any correspondence between relative size of projects (as measured by their average annual budgets) and transparency?

Figure 7 illustrates the distribution of projects according to their average annual budget (total project budget divided by planned project lifespan in years) and their availability of project documentation index scores. (This was not reported on in the 2013 audit, so no comparative results are available). This shows that a greater proportion of small budget projects receive lower transparency scores, while a greater proportion of large budget projects are more transparently documented.

**Figure 7: Distribution of projects by project size (average annual budget) and transparency score**



Notes: Small = \$0.25–2.05m; Medium small = \$2.1–\$4.325m; Medium large = \$4.35–\$9.98m; Large = \$10–80m. This figure excludes 32 projects for which a budget was not provided. Detailed data can be found in Appendix A2.

Within the quartiles, average document availability was highest for projects in the highest quartile (average documentation availability index score of 56.0%), and lowest for projects in the lowest quartile (37.0%). However, there is clearly still considerable variation in levels of transparency regardless of project size.

We also conducted an ordinary least squares regression analysis to determine whether there is a statistically significant relationship between the transparency score and the natural log of the project budget (Table 4). The resulting coefficient reveals that a statistically significant relationship does exist at the  $p < 0.001$  level. However, the low R-squared value indicates that project size only explains about seven per cent of the variability in project transparency scores.

**Table 4: Availability of project documentation and annual budget (regression results)**

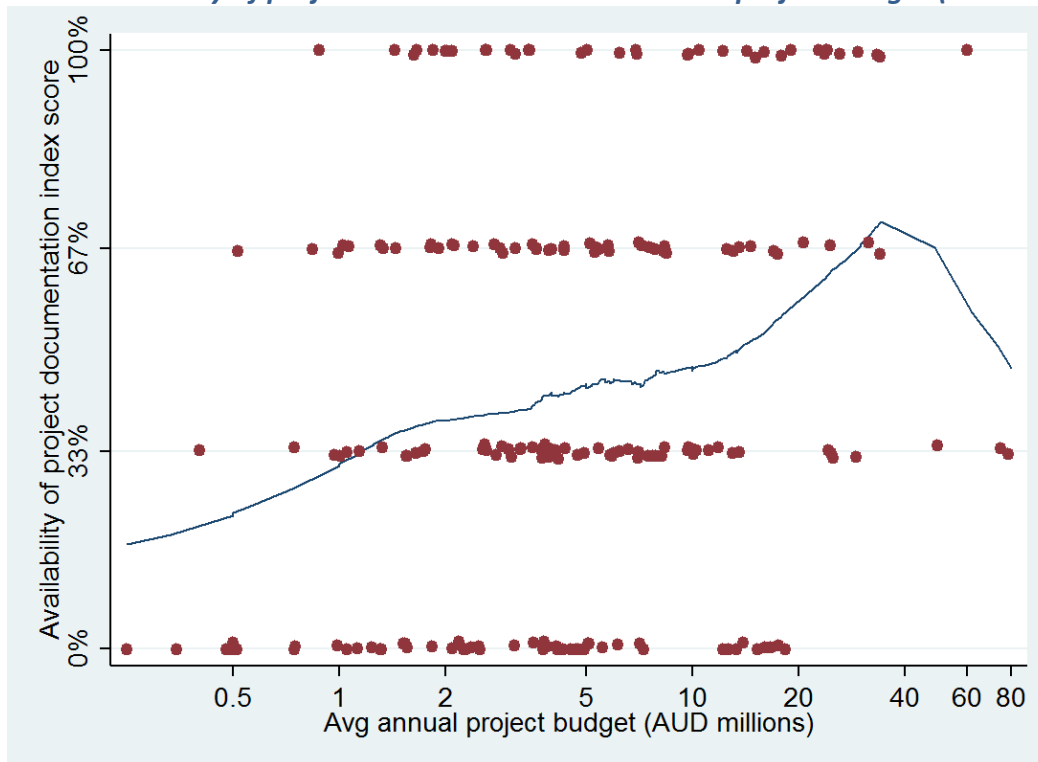
	Availability of project documentation index score
Annual project budget (natural log)	0.0813*** (3.76)
Constant	0.321*** (7.93)
$R^2$	0.066
adj. $R^2$	0.061
$N$	204

*t* statistics in parentheses

\*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*\*  $p < 0.001$

Figure 8 plots individual projects by their availability of project documentation index score and their average annual budget (n=204; 35 projects for which no budget was provided are excluded). The Lowess regression line shows the relationship between project budget and transparency score. The relationship is positive; however, because the x-axis is on a log scale, the gradient of the locally weighted line of best fit shows that the average rate of improvement diminishes as the scale increases.

**Figure 8: Availability of project documentation and annual project budget (scatter plot)**



Figures 7 and 8 show that projects with the smallest budgets tend not to receive an availability of project documentation score above 67% – only one project with an annual budget below \$1m did so. Conversely, no project with a budget greater than \$20m scored less than 33%. However, the performance of the largest projects (above \$40m) was pulled down by three large negative outliers. There remains considerable variation in transparency scores across the middle range of projects.

It is possible that the smallest projects are disadvantaged by our audit methodology, which weighted the presence of documentation in each of the categories equally.<sup>5</sup> Some of these small projects may not be large enough, or run for long enough, to merit the production of detailed reports or independent reviews. This would result in their receiving a lower score than would be expected if they had a larger budget. Current DFAT policy [states](#) that “for every investment judged as high risk or valued at over \$10 million, an independent operational evaluation must be undertaken at least once within its lifetime and published on the DFAT website.” This suggests that many smaller budget projects may not undergo formal independent evaluation. Similarly, prior to 2014, AusAID policy [specified](#) that ‘initiatives’ which received at least \$3 million within their lifetime, or which were judged to be “significant to country or corporate strategies or key relationships with other development partners including other government agencies” was required to undergo an independent evaluation or review at least once over the life of the project (p. 7-8). Both policies specified that reviews and evaluations may be undertaken at whatever point in the project’s lifetime this is deemed most valuable – typically, but not always, the project mid- and/or end-points.

Nevertheless, it is not unreasonable to expect that all projects should achieve an availability of project documentation score of at least 33%, through publication of at minimum a project design document or work plan. Moreover, our scoring methodology is based exclusively on presence or absence of documents, without any assessment of their length or quality, so it would not penalise smaller or simpler projects from this perspective. While in one respect it is reassuring to see that larger investments are, in general, relatively well-documented, in principle all projects ought to be subject (to the greatest extent possible) to the same standards of transparency and reporting regardless of their size or geographical location.

## Discussion

The findings presented above are self-explanatory, and require no further detailed discussion. However several challenges arose in the process of conducting the audit. These challenges and corresponding recommendations to address these, and thereby improve project-level transparency in the Australian aid program, are discussed below.

### Project coverage and currency

It is unclear what happens to the data and documentation published on the DFAT website upon the completion or termination of projects. The majority of projects audited appear to be current; the average end year for all projects included in the audit was 2017. Only one country included in the audit – Indonesia – included a dedicated listing of ‘completed projects’. Similarly, only one country included in the audit – Sri Lanka – indicates ‘proposed projects’. Though projects currently being implemented are likely those of primary interest to most users of the DFAT website, providing an archival function is important for being able to understand the historical legacies of projects. For example, having information for completed projects available makes the trajectory of the aid program evident. What kind of projects does the aid program focus on now, and

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<sup>5</sup> As described above, in the case of projects which began in or before 2014 the presence of documentation was averaged across the three categories of plan and design documents, implementation and performance management documents, and reviews and evaluations. For projects which commenced in 2015 or later only plan and design documents were examined. All scores shown exclude the first category, policy and direction setting documents.

is this similar or different to previous focuses? Have the investment areas of the aid program changed with political climates and best-practice development policy advice? Having access to information and documentation relating to previous projects also enables a more comprehensive understanding of current projects and their historical legacies – aspects of certain projects, or indeed the very presence of projects, may be explained by the successes or failures of previous projects, for example.

One example of where this is particularly relevant is for multi-phase projects. These are typically large health, education, governance, or transportation sectoral support projects. Currently, some multi-phase projects only include documents and information related to the current phase of the project, while others include documents drawn from multiple phases. A more consistent approach to labelling projects and posting information and documents would enable end users to achieve a more comprehensive understanding of a project. DFAT could also consider reinstating the ‘implementation status’ function, a feature of the prior AusAID website which clearly indicated where a project was in its lifecycle (started; implementing; completed), to assist in orienting users to the project.

### Location of project documentation

A problem which recurred throughout the process of undertaking the audit was the difficulty of finding documents on websites listed in ‘related links’. Related links were commonly used as sources for documents in two general circumstances.

The first circumstance was for documents pertaining to multilateral projects, delivered in partnership with agencies such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Generally, in this circumstance relevant documents were not difficult to find, as large multilateral agencies tend to have well-maintained and easy-to-navigate document storage systems.

The second circumstance was when projects had their own devoted website, or had a devoted section as part of an external website. This circumstance is where much of the difficulty in locating project documentation occurred. Websites developed for specific projects varied significantly in size, quality, and information storage procedures. This made it difficult to judge or predict where documents would be stored on a website. Occasionally, searches for project documents involved manual searches through document caches and detailed scanning of tabs and webpages. A particular issue was faced when reports were provided by an external website on specific project elements, but it was not clear what the wider project was, and thus which category (if any) any given document should be attributed to. It was evident that in many cases documents, although available, were unreasonably difficult to find.

Where possible, DFAT should consider either locally hosting copies of the relevant documents on its own website, or alternatively providing a direct link to the relevant document or clear instructions for locating the relevant documents on external sites, rather than simply providing a ‘related link’ to a general section of the external site.

Additionally, while relatively simple bilateral projects fit neatly within the current DFAT website structure (which is organized principally by countries), cross-country, regional, and multilateral projects pose several challenges with respect to locating documentation. The current structure of the aid section of the DFAT website, with its



orientation primarily around countries, makes it difficult to gain a comprehensive picture of multi-country initiatives, as the relevant information is necessarily distributed and duplicated across several country and/or sectoral pages.

An example of this is the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development project; though this project has its own [dedicated webpage](#) and [information listed under the Pacific Regional page](#), information is also posted separately on the relevant individual country pages. Not only is this user-unfriendly as information is distributed around several different pages, but from an information management perspective also would seem to significantly complicate the task of updating text and documents. This could be addressed by developing a dynamic database or portal for presenting aid program information, rather than the static listings currently used on the DFAT website. The [DFID Development Tracker](#) provides an excellent example of a database-type model for presenting project-level data and documentation, and one for which the [source code](#) is freely available.

### Consistency in presentation and relevance

Though a new database or portal would greatly simplify access to project-level information, there are a number of simple steps that could be taken within the current website structure to make documents easier to locate, and thus facilitate end user access to information. Currently there do not appear to be standards related to the document types or order in which documents are uploaded, which results in variation in presentation both within and between countries. Occasionally, the relevance of documentation to the specified project is unclear. Two examples are shown below.

#### **Example 1: Australia-Indonesia Partnership** ***No clear ordering system, inconsistent document naming conventions***

Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Pro-poor Policy: The Knowledge Sector Initiative (KSI)		
\$100 million, 2012-2017		
In order to deliver development benefits for its 107 million poor, Indonesia needs sound public policies supported by rigorous research and analysis. However, lack of demand from policy makers, inadequate sustained funding, and uneven technical capacity in Indonesian think tanks has resulted in little policy-relevant research emerging from domestic sources. Australia and the Indonesian government have developed KSI to address these issues by stimulating the production and use of quality research and analysis for policy decision-makers.		
Related documents*		
Name of document	Year published	Type
<a href="#">Overview of the Indonesian Knowledge Sector</a>	2010	Report
<a href="#">Proposed "Revitalising Indonesia's Knowledge Sector for Development Policy": Design Document</a>	2012	Design document
<a href="#">Revitalising Indonesia's Knowledge Sector for Development: Concept Note as at October 2009</a>	2009	Concept note
<a href="#">Study of Knowledge Needs and Supply Constraints for gender research in Indonesia's knowledge Sector</a>	2011	Study
<a href="#">The political economy of policy-making in Indonesian – Opportunities for improving the demand and use of knowledge</a>	2011	Study
<a href="#">Independent Review of Supply Side Organisations and Government Intermediaries – Knowledge Sector Pilot Supply Side</a>	2013	Evaluation Report
<a href="#">Independent Review of the Knowledge Sector Supply Side Pilot (TAF Pilot) – management response</a>	2013	Response document
<a href="#">Independent Review of Supply Side Organisations and Government Intermediaries – Literature Review</a>	2013	Review
<a href="#">Independent Review of Supply Side Organisations and Government Intermediaries – Think Pieces</a>	2013	Review

*Note: Screenshot taken from DFAT website 1 September 2016*

## Example 2: PFIP (Fiji)

### *Only document listed out-dated and irrelevant*

Pacific Financial Inclusion Program (PFIP)—Phase 2

**Up to \$5 million, 2013-2016 (this represents the Fiji Bilateral contribution to the overall \$14 million DFAT funding to the PFIP Program)**

The PFIP aims to ensure that the poor have access to banking and financial services and increased knowledge and understanding of financial information. The Fiji program has supported PFIP to work with the Ministry of Education to mainstream financial education throughout the school curriculum, targeted at all school children in Fiji. The PFIP program has also supported innovation of financial products and new business models by the private sector, including the introduction of mobile money, in-store banking and micro-insurance pilots.

For more information see the [Pacific Financial Inclusion Program](#) website.

Related documents\*

Name of document	Year published	Type
<a href="#">Fiji—Australia Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Development</a>	1995	Memorandum of Understanding

*Note: Screenshot taken from DFAT website 1 September 2016*

Along similar lines, end users would benefit from greater clarity with respect to the year indicated. Though project documents are listed under the heading ‘Year published’, in practice this is not always the same as the year to which the content of the document relates (which is, in most cases, likely to be the more relevant date). Adopting a more consistent approach to naming, ordering, and labelling documents would assist users to more quickly and easily identify documents and assess their timeliness.

### IATI reporting

While the findings presented above offer some insights into the state of project-level transparency in the Australian aid program over time, we acknowledge that it draws on a specific and limited dataset: the bilateral country pages of the DFAT website. This is not the only place where the aid program reports information at the project level, the most notable other place being [IATI reports](#). Indeed, there is some evidence to suggest that DFAT has significantly improved its IATI reporting within the last year, and is providing more and more detailed quantitative information. However, these reports are only published in XML spreadsheets (the format required by IATI), which are not readily accessible, particularly by the general public. While increased volume of project-level information is to be encouraged and may technically improve transparency, it does little on its own to promote accountability, to communicate the work of the aid program or to enhance public engagement.

In addition, there are concerns that, precisely because the information submitted to IATI has not been accessed and scrutinized by outsiders, it may itself be incomplete and of poor quality; see [this blog post](#) by Robin Davies, which gives the example of Myanmar projects being listed under Indonesia. For these reasons, this audit has focused on the project-level information which is readily and publicly accessible: that which is published on (and linked to from) the DFAT website.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> We know of one analysis of Australian aid using IATI data: [this blog post](#) by Robin Davies and Bob McMullan. It might be said to be the exception that proves the rule.



## Recommendations

The above discussion outlined various challenges encountered in the process of undertaking the audit, and provided suggestions for modifying the presentation of existing information available on the DFAT website. However, there are larger issues relating to transparency and accountability that should also be addressed.

Assuming that documentation does in fact exist for all projects funded by the Australian aid program, the key question becomes: what are the barriers to making those documents available online? The findings of a 2016 audit conducted by the DFAT Internal Audit Branch (published in ODE's [Review of Operational Evaluations conducted in 2014](#), slide 41) indicates that administrative capacity is the primary barrier. Of 50 operational evaluations which were completed but not published on the DFAT website, 48% were not published due to administrative factors including "staff turnover, general resourcing pressures, shifting work priorities, and the impact of the DFAT-AusAID integration". Other reasons included the evaluation was 'sensitive in nature' (18%); published on partner website (16%), no partner approval to publish (8%), no ongoing value in publishing (4%), partner delay (4%), and poor quality (2%).

While some of these reasons provide legitimate reasons to exempt documents from publication (e.g., no partner approval; partner delay), others are contrary to the very essence of transparency, most notably the reason 'poor quality'. Similarly, the determination that there is 'no ongoing value in publishing' a document is highly subjective (no ongoing value for whom?) and should not constitute grounds for declining publication. The default position should be that all relevant documentation is publicly available unless confidentiality will be compromised as a result. This principle appears to form the basis of current policy, according to an otherwise positive footnote which appears on each of the DFAT webpages where project-level information is posted. The footnote states that "In limited circumstances some information may be withheld for reasons including privacy and commercial sensitivity." Nevertheless, for those projects to which this applies DFAT could consider noting that documents are being withheld on sensitivity grounds – thereby indicating that all reasonable efforts have been made to publish as much documentation as possible.

There is also a need for increased clarity about the completeness of coverage of aid-funded projects on the DFAT website. Presently, while relative calculations of transparency and comparisons can be drawn based on what information has been published, the true denominator is unknown. That is, it is unclear whether *all* current projects are listed on the DFAT website, or if there is a process for determining which projects appear online and which do not, and at which level these decisions are made. That some countries provide information and documentation for completed and prospective projects, while most do not, suggests some inconsistencies exist. If there is an established process, it should be made clear and publicly available; and if not, one should be established.

To this end, the idea of establishing annual targets for the publication of documentation in the aid program is one which continues to have merit. Doing so would provide concrete benchmarks to encourage and better quantify improvements in transparency going forward. With the nearly all of the strategic targets set out in the government's [development policy and performance framework](#) now either [having been achieved or nearing achievement](#) (p. 7), establishing a new target related to transparency and

accountability [would appear a logical candidate for inclusion](#) in a revised set of strategic objectives for the aid program. The government might also consider developing aid transparency and accountability legislation which mandates the publication of information about aid-funded activities, as discussed in this [policy brief](#). Finally, some return should be sought on the Australian investment in IATI by making information which has been submitted to IATI more readily and meaningfully accessible to the public.

Boosting transparency will require additional financial and human resources. The resource requirement will be minimised, however, if publication becomes standard practice. Increasing transparency in the aid program will also require a clearer expression of political and bureaucratic commitment to transparency. It was never made apparent why AusAID's Transparency Charter was abolished. Now, DFAT's commitment to transparency is expressed, repeatedly, as a footnote to project document pages. If that commitment was elevated, and the Minister's own commitment reiterated, we could expect to see a fairly rapid improvement in transparency scores.

## Conclusion

The first transparency audit of the Australian aid program, conducted in 2013 on the AusAID website, concluded that while transparency had improved under the Labor government, there was much left to be desired. [The 2013 audit](#) observed that while transparency had improved under Labor, overall the record was "not that impressive". It noted a "substantial data dump in 2011" but little by way of sustained effort, resulting in "a patchy and out-of-date public information base for Australia's aid projects." As our colleagues who conducted the 2013 audit noted at the time, it should not have been hard for the Coalition to do better than Labor in relation to aid transparency.

Yet despite the early commitment signalled by Julie Bishop to improve transparency, overall the findings of the 2016 transparency audit indicate that there has been a general decline in the average availability of project-level data and documentation since 2013. There has been a small increase in the publication of project reviews and evaluations, though this has occurred off a low base. Of the countries audited, the Philippines, Fiji, and Indonesia have the highest average availability of project documentation, and Middle East and North Africa was the most transparently documented region. By sector, agriculture ranked highest in terms of average availability of project documentation, followed by health; humanitarian projects remain the least well documented. An analysis of transparency and project size reveals a relationship between the level of resources allocated to a project and the average availability of documentation, though there is much variation around the observed trend.

Ensuring transparency and accountability in aid programs is resource-intensive, requiring dedicated administrative time and attention. There are logistical challenges to maintaining a high level of transparency, including considerations with respect to security, privacy, and donor-recipient relations, some of which may be heightened in environment where the aid program sits within an integrated Department of Foreign Affairs.

A high level of transparency also may pose reputational risks. By providing detailed project-level documentation, project and program managers open themselves up to critique, both from within government and the public.

However, these challenges represent complications, not excuses. As the now defunct AusAID Transparency Charter acknowledged, increased transparency actually serves to reduce the risk of waste by enabling taxpayers and aid recipients to hold governments accountable, particularly when paired with a strong commitment to good communication about aid. Australia is not unique in facing challenges around ensuring project-level transparency, and a number of other donors perform at a much higher level than Australia does. Australia should be a leader in aid transparency; instead our performance has gone backwards, while several other donors have made major strides forward. Since the 2013 Australian aid transparency audit was conducted, both the [UK](#) and the [US](#) aid agencies have greatly improved the amount of project-level information available on their websites. Providing data at the aggregate level is no substitute for providing it at the project level.

With the Australian aid program now settled into a ‘new normal’ in terms of both structure and resourcing levels, attention can and should now be turned to actually implementing Australia’s political and bureaucratic commitments to transparency in its aid program. Making transparency one of the official benchmarks by which the performance of the aid program is to be judged would be a positive and potentially transformational step forward.

## Appendices

### A1 Availability of project documentation by sector

#### Average availability of project documentation by sector, 2016

	Policy and direction setting documents	Design and plan documents	Implementation and performance management documents*	Reviews and evaluations*	Average score	Average score including category 1
Agriculture	100%	80%	33.3%	33.3%	48.9%	61.7%
Education	29.2%	39.6%	26.9%	34.6%	33.7%	32.6%
Gender	40%	60%	33.3%	16.7%	36.7%	37.5%
Governance	31.8%	61.4%	19.4%	47.2%	42.7%	39.9%
Health	40.6%	68.8%	35.7%	39.3%	47.9%	46.1%
Humanitarian & DRR	17.7%	35.3%	16.7%	41.7%	31.2%	27.8%
Infrastructure & Trade	32.4%	66.2%	32.8%	29.3%	42.7%	40.2%
Other	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	0%	0%

*\*Only projects that commenced in or before 2014 were included in the analysis.*

#### Average availability of project documentation by sector, 2013 and 2016

Year	Agriculture*	Education	Gender*	Governance	Health	Humanitarian & DRR	Economic development (2013)/ Infrastructure & Trade (2016)	Other*
2013	-	52%	-	50.5%	54%	40.5%	53%	-
2016	48.9%	33.7%	36.7%	42.7	47.9%	31.2%	42.7%	0%

*\*Sector not analysed in 2013 audit. Scores shown exclude documents in category 1.*

## A2 Availability of project documentation by project size

		Availability of project documentation index score				Average availability of project documentation index score
		0%	33%	67%	100%	
Project size by quartile (N=204)	Small (\$0.25m–\$2.01m)	39.2%	23.5%	23.5%	13.7%	37.0%
	Medium small (\$2.1m–\$4.325m)	29.4%	33.3%	23.5%	13.7%	40.0%
	Medium large (\$4.35m–\$9.98m)	22.0%	36.0%	30.0%	12.0%	44.0%
	Large (\$10m–\$80m)	17.3%	30.8%	19.2%	32.7%	56.0%

### A3 2016 findings by country and region

Region	Country	# projects listed	Policy & direction setting	Plan & design	Implementation & performance management*	Review & evaluation*	Availability of project documentation index score (excluding category 1)	2013 average availability (excluding category 1)	% point change from 2013	Average release year of report/review document
Pacific	Cook Islands	1	0%	100.0%	0%	0%	33.3%	-	-	-
	Federated States of Micronesia	0	-	-	-	-	-	33.3%	-33.3	-
	Fiji	10	40.0%	50.0%	66.7%	66.7%	61.1%	57.6%	+3.5	2014.2
	Kiribati	7	14.3%	57.1%	50.0%	50.0%	52.4%	34.5%	+17.9	2015
	Nauru	5	40.0%	20.0%	0%	0%	6.7%	27.8%	-21.1	-
	Niue	0	-	-	-	-	-	16.7%	-16.7	-
	Papua New Guinea	24	29.2%	58.3%	15.0%	30.0%	34.4%	37.0%	-2.6	2014.3
	Regional Pacific	27	26.9%	42.3%	35.3%	29.4%	35.7%	29.4%	+6.3	2014.2
	Republic of Palau	0	-	-	-	-	-	34.9%	-34.9	-
	Republic of the Marshall Islands	0	-	-	-	-	-	33.3%	-33.3	-
	Samoa	15	13.3%	46.7%	44.4%	33.3%	41.5%	68.7%	-27.2	2013.5
	Solomon Islands	10	50.0%	60.0%	12.5%	25.0%	32.5%	20.9%	+11.6	2014.5
	Tokelau	0	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	0	-
	Tonga	8	12.5%	75.0%	16.7%	50.0%	47.2%	37.0%	+10.2	2014
	Tuvalu	6	16.7%	16.7%	0%	33.3%	16.7%	33.3%	-16.6	2014
	Vanuatu	15	73.3%	66.7%	18.2%	27.3%	37.4%	68.9%	-31.5	2014.8
	<b>Pacific Region</b>	128	32.3%	52%	26.7%	33.7%	37.5%	-	-	2014.3
SE & East Asia	ASEAN and East Asia Regional	30	23.3%	46.7%	29.6%	25.9%	34.1%	-	-	2014.3
	Indonesia	30	41.4%	75.9%	29.2%	62.5%	55.8%	54.2%	+1.6	2013.1
	Laos	7	57.1%	71.4%	20.0%	20.0%	37.1%	-	-	2015
	Mongolia	4	0%	100.0%	0%	0%	33.3%	-	-	-
	Philippines	10	50.0%	90.0%	30.0%	80.0%	66.7%	-	-	2013.3
	<b>Southeast &amp; East Asia Region</b>	81	35.0%	67.5%	27.1%	44.3%	46.3%	-	-	2013.6
South & West Asia	Maldives	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Pakistan	13	38.5%	69.2%	40.0%	10.0%	41.7%	-	-	2014.8
	Regional South and West Asia	3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-	-	-
	Sri Lanka	8	12.5%	25.0%	100.0%	0%	41.7%	-	-	2015.5

	<b>South &amp; West Asia Region</b>	24	25.0%	45.8%	40.0%	6.7%	30.8%	-	-	2015
Middle East & North Africa	Palestinian Territories	6	50.0%	66.7%	50.0%	25.0%	47.2%	-	-	2014.7
	Iraq humanitarian response	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Middle East &amp; North Africa Region</b>	6	50.0%	66.7%	50.0%	25.0%	47.2%	-	-	2014.7
<b>OVERALL</b>		239	32.5%	55.7%	23.6%	28.3%	35.9%	41.9%	-6.0	2014

*\*Only projects that commenced in or before 2014 were included in the analysis.*

*Data compiled July 2016*