

European Commission Budget (EC Budget)





Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:



MAR 2011: *Adequate Value for Money for UK Aid*

Progress Assessment	
Summary	Progress on aid allocation and ensuring staff have development expertise. Some progress on gender and a results framework. More progress needed on evaluation and managing for value for money.
Baseline	
<p>The EC Budget provides funding for the EU's external aid programmes throughout the world, with the exception of the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. It is comprised of a number of geographical and thematic instruments.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The EC budget funds 90 country programmes, many of which are UK priorities but do not receive UK aid• The budget instruments are key for wider UK priorities on EU enlargement, the Neighbourhood and the Middle East• Financial accountability is strong and well established <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is limited focus on the poorest countries.• There is little evidence of a uniform approach to gender.• There is no overall results framework.• Non-budget support assistance has less of a focus on value for money. <p>DFID's reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen gender mainstreaming in practice and measurement of impact of gender work – assessed under <u>attention to cross-cutting issues (gender)</u>;• Strengthen results-based approach to aid, including by implementing a results framework – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u> and <u>cost and value consciousness</u>;• Improve ability to recruit and maintain development expertise – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>;• Develop a more effective evaluation function – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>;• Allocate resources according to needs and performance – assessed under <u>financial resources management</u>;• Keep administrative costs under control – assessed under <u>cost and value consciousness</u>.	
Summary of Overall Progress	
<p>A Gender Action Plan has been introduced but more attention is needed, particularly by senior management. Some progress is being made on implementing a results framework, which should be ready by mid-2014. This should give more opportunity to manage for value for money. Progress has been made in ensuring that delegations</p>	

have the right expertise to deliver their programmes. The evaluation function has made less progress than expected. The DCI instrument will increase its focus on the poorest and most fragile states.

Progress against Reform Priorities			
MAR Reform Component	MAR 2011 Score	Progress Rating	MAR Update Score, if any change
<p>Attention to cross-cutting issues (gender) Around 50% of Gender Action Plan targets have been met but there is evidence of weak management commitment.</p>	2	 Some progress	
<p>Strategic and performance management Implementation of a results framework has started and one should be in place by mid-2014. There have been improvements in human resource management.</p>	2	 Some progress	
<p>Financial resources management Greater focus on the poorest countries will be delivered by graduating some countries from bilateral aid and the implementation of allocation criteria agreed in Agenda for Change.</p>	2	 Reasonable progress	
<p>Cost and value consciousness Improvements have been made to procurement regulations and OECD data suggests administrative costs are in line with other multilaterals. The results framework should provide an opportunity to better manage for value for money.</p>	3	 Some progress	