

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:









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

Progress assessment	
Summary	Some progress in key areas, including improvement in performance in developing countries. A greater rate of progress required by 2015.
Baseline	
<p>The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) helps countries build and share solutions to achieve Poverty Reduction and the Millennium Development Goals.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important role in achieving a number of MDGs and addressing the UK's strategic priorities. • Strong partnerships across the UN system and with partner governments. Able to incorporate beneficiary voice. • Committed to IATI and has good member state accountability. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery in developing countries can be undermined by staffing issues and bureaucratic processes; and its performance in fragile contexts is mixed. • Broad mandate means its technical resources are spread very thinly and lack strategic direction. • Limited evidence of cost and value consciousness within senior management and in country offices. <p>DFID's reform priorities assessed for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate delivery of results in developing countries, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected countries and leadership in the UN system – assessed under <u>contribution to results</u>; • Greater focus on governance and crisis prevention and recovery, and progress on key management reforms – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>; • Progress on procurement driven by value for money, cost effectiveness and administrative efficiency – assessed under <u>cost and value consciousness</u>. 	
Summary of overall progress	
<p>UNDP has made some progress in improving strategic direction, corporate planning and leading the UN system. However, stronger evidence of improvements in developing countries is needed. UNDP is developing a much stronger corporate results framework, has achieved greater value for money in procurement and has reduced recruitment times for key country programme posts. More progress is needed to improve administrative</p>	

efficiency, the quality of staffing, particularly in fragile states, results reporting capacity and deliver a more explicit approach to cost control and effectiveness.

Progress against reform priorities

MAR reform component	MAR 2011 score	Progress rating	MAR Update score, if any change
<p>Contribution to results Progress in country office performance, particularly leadership and programme effectiveness, though difficult to judge how much. Good leadership on the Resident Coordinator system and IATI.</p>		 Some progress	
<p>Strategic and performance management Improved strategic direction, corporate planning, development of a stronger results framework and improved recruitment times. Further action required to improve staff performance and recruitment to conflict-affected countries. Insufficient attention to capacity for results management.</p>		 Some progress	
<p>Cost and value consciousness Good progress on procurement, but clearer targets required for cost control/effectiveness and administrative efficiency.</p>		 Some progress	