











United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:



MAR 2011: Adequate Value for Money for UK Aid

Progress assessment	
Summary	Some progress across the reform areas including a better results framework, updated evaluation function and implementation of IATI and IPSAS, as well as evidence of cost reductions.
Baseline	
<p>UNFPA leads on sexual and reproductive health and rights and on supporting countries use population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a critical role through global level advocacy and delivery of related MDGs. • Reports comprehensively against its global objectives. • Its procurement strategy considers value for money related principles. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High administration costs, procurement savings not systematically tracked or reported. • Evaluation culture and global level results chains are weak. • Audit concerns have been made a priority but progress on this is slow. • Accountability to partner governments is strong, but transparency of programme information is weak. <p>DFID's reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved delivery of priority programmes and assisting governments in utilising population data – assessed under <u>contribution to results</u>; • Strengthened reporting frameworks and results culture within the organisation – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>; • Reduction in the number of outstanding audit recommendations and improved compliance with financial procedures – assessed under <u>financial resources management</u>; • Administrative efficiency savings and improved procurement cost control – assessed under <u>cost and value consciousness</u>; • Increased transparency of project documentation and data, and implementation of IATI – assessed under <u>transparency and accountability</u>. 	
Summary of overall progress	
<p>UNFPA has improved its integrated results framework, implemented the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and IATI, established a new evaluation function, reduced audit recommendations and continues to focus on its management-to-programme spend ratio.</p>	

Progress against reform priorities			
MAR reform component	MAR 2011 score	Progress rating	MAR Update score, if any change
<p>Contribution to results There are some moves to improve central oversight, evident in the improved global results framework and country programme reviews. However variable country performance remains a feature of UNFPA's operations. More needs to be done in the humanitarian field.</p>		 Some progress	
<p>Strategic and performance management UNFPA has improved its results and evaluation tools, but more time is needed to see if this results in a strengthened culture.</p>		 Some progress	
<p>Financial resources management Implemented the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and received an unqualified financial audit. However concerns remain about overall compliance across the organisation.</p>		 Some progress	
<p>Cost and value consciousness UNFPA has improved its procurement office, and has demonstrated its prioritisation of programme over management costs. More needed to incentivise country offices to reduce costs.</p>		 Some progress	
<p>Transparency and accountability UNFPA has started implementation of IATI, and widened its publically disclosed documents to include internal audit. However its documentation about working in developing countries is still not easily available.</p>		 Some progress	