

UNITAID

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:







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

Progress Assessment	
Summary	The pace of progress has been reasonable in most areas though slow in others. The majority of current UK reform priorities have been partially achieved, albeit slowly.
Baseline	
<p>UNITAID is a unique organisation seeking to have an impact on markets for drugs, diagnostics and preventive interventions in the field of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. It seeks to decrease prices and increase access, and to act as a catalyst for new, innovative treatments and formulations.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNITAID’s focus on malaria and contribution to reproductive, maternal and newborn health (RMNH) means that it has a good fit with DFID’s strategic priorities. • Price reductions have been significant, and should lead to a sustainable benefit for countries, donors and international agencies. • The views of partners and intended beneficiaries are built into UNITAID’s decision making structures. • Financial management has improved with the recruitment of high quality senior personnel. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is little evidence that management actively manages for results. • The Board has applied value for money criteria unevenly in funding decisions. • UNITAID’s publication of documentation is patchy and often very slow. <p>DFID’s reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in UNITAID’s Strategy and Business Model, a coherent funding strategy, stronger leadership and management capacity delivering an efficient and well-led Secretariat – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>; • A credible and functional policy on transition of grants away from UNITAID funding and more predictable and reliable donor support – assessed under <u>financial and resources management</u>; • Development of internal systems, improved arrangements for appraising and prioritising proposals that offer the greatest value for money – assessed under <u>cost and value consciousness</u> and <u>transparency and accountability</u>. 	
Summary of Overall Progress	
<p>Overall, progress has been reasonable against important components such as Financial and Resource Management – including risk management – and there has been some progress on Cost and Value Consciousness. Systems for financial accountability have</p>	

improved. Overall systems and policies have improved, though the Board itself can still be inconsistent, for example in the way it reaches funding decisions. The recently approved Strategy 2013-2016 is an improvement over the previous Strategy 2010-2012. The independent Five Year Evaluation is positive about many aspects of UNITAID's performance, while noting that challenges remain.

Progress against Reform Priorities

MAR Reform Component	MAR 2011 Score	Progress Rating	MAR Update Score, if any change
<p>Strategic and performance management The Five Year Evaluation of UNITAID validates the business model and notes that it is 'doing the right things in the right way'. Both the Board and Secretariat are using more robust tools in appraising projects, and the new strategy will be useful in defining funding priorities. Leadership has improved. Despite some challenges highlighted, the pace of reform is reasonable.</p>	2	 Reasonable progress	
<p>Financial resources management Good progress has been made in terms of developing and applying internal systems and policies. Problems of transitioning grants to other sources of funding have been largely resolved, though challenges remain in other areas such as portfolio management. Tools to support prioritisation have improved, but donor support is not yet predictable.</p>	2	 Reasonable progress	
<p>Cost and value consciousness There has been some continued progress from an already good base, as the development and use of internal processes and measurement have improved. The 5YE was positive about this aspect of UNITAID's performance, but the Board could be stronger on seeking best Value for Money.</p>	3	 Some progress	
<p>Transparency and accountability There has been some progress with an overhaul of the website, and participation of stakeholders remains strong, but the publication of project documentation in a consistent and easily accessible manner could still improve. The pace of progress in this component has been slow.</p>	2	 Little or no progress	