









International Development Association (IDA)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:



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

Progress assessment	
Summary	Taking reform seriously. Reasonable progress made against gender, fragile states and contribution to results reform priorities. Some progress made with respect to partnership behaviour.
Baseline	
<p>IDA is part of the World Bank, which aims to reduce poverty by providing loans and grants for programmes that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDA has strong capacity in a range of sectors. • It has good delivery against challenging development objectives. • It has staff of high quality. • Evaluation is a core strength. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence, timeliness and delivery in fragile states are weak. • Adherence to gender policy in core IDA country operations is weak. <p>DFID's reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved performance, coordination and resourcing of the Bank – assessed under <u>attention to cross-cutting issues (fragile contexts)</u>; • Stronger focus on girls and women in country strategies, operations and policy dialogue – assessed under <u>attention to cross-cutting issues (gender)</u>; • Stronger results framework and more appropriate procedures and instruments – assessed under <u>contribution to results</u>; • More flexible instruments and reforms to procedures, which facilitate stronger partnership working – assessed under <u>partnership behaviour</u>. 	
Summary of overall progress	
<p>The World Bank is taking reform seriously and is making itself a more agile, efficient organisation. The Bank has made reasonable progress against three reform priorities identified in the MAR – gender, fragile contexts and contribution to results. Some progress has been made against partnership behaviour reform priority. It is too early to tell what impact corporate initiatives are having in developing countries.</p>	

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) A number of corporate initiatives have been introduced to encourage greater focus on gender. The main achievements include: introduction of a Gender Data Portal; publication of the World Development Report on Gender and Development; and improvements in indicators tracking gender mainstreaming. It is too early to evaluate the impact of initiatives to improve systems in developing countries.</p>		 Reasonable progress	
<p>Attention to cross-cutting issues (fragile contexts) The Bank has prioritised working in fragile contexts in recent corporate initiatives and established the Nairobi Hub to catalyse change. Improved engagement is becoming evident on the ground.</p>		 Reasonable progress	
<p>Contribution to results Delivering for results was the over-arching theme for IDA16. The Bank is using its Corporate Scorecard and IDA 16 Results Management System to give greater focus on results throughout the organisation. Approval of P4R instrument is a significant step.</p>		 Reasonable progress	
<p>Partnership behaviour Modernisation reforms are providing the basis to address concerns raised in the MAR around the use of country systems and the flexibility of Bank procedures. Reform of the Investment Lending instrument and approval of the P4R instrument is going some way to addressing these issues.</p>		 Some progress	