

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:







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

Progress Assessment	
Summary	Commitment to address reforms. Progress is underway, in particular, on climate change where steps have been taken to understand and reduce the environmental impact of programmes and operations. Increased transparency with donors from headquarters.
Baseline	
<p>ICRC is a private organisation with an exclusively humanitarian mission. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Red Cross movement in situations of conflict.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICRC has unparalleled access to vulnerable populations; it is often the only organisation offering assistance and protection, particularly in remote areas. • Cost efficiency underpins ICRC’s financial management and value for money considerations are taken into account in programming. • It has strong partnerships with governments, donors and the Red Cross movement. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICRC operates on a policy of confidentiality rather than transparency to deliver its mandate. This makes ICRC less transparent as an organisation. • The degree of ICRC accountability to recipient country stakeholders is not clear. • ICRC’s willingness to engage with humanitarian partners in country is not consistent and depends in large part on the particular ICRC delegates in country. <p>DFID’s reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factoring environmental and climate change issues into all its policies and operations – assessed under <u>attention to cross-cutting issues (climate change and environmental sustainability)</u>; • Improving accountability to beneficiaries, and transparency – assessed under <u>transparency and accountability</u>. 	
Summary of Overall Progress	
<p>Evidence indicates that ICRC has taken the reforms seriously and taken forward a number of initiatives, largely at headquarters, to address areas of weakness. It is too early to see impact at field level, but the ICRC management demonstrate strong commitment to addressing the reform priorities identified.</p>	

Key achievements to date include:

- A new strategic framework for sustainable development to guide policies and programmes;
- Piloting of new approaches to understand and mitigate the impact of ICRC's activities on the environment;
- Increased, dedicated resource to focus on environmental issues;
- Increased transparency - new policy forums with donors and willingness to integrate with the wider international humanitarian system;
- Continued focus on accountability to stakeholders and increased attention to participatory planning.

Progress against Reform Priorities

MAR Reform Component	MAR 2011 Score	Progress Rating	MAR Update Score, if any change
<p>Attention to cross-cutting issues (climate change and environmental sustainability) Substantial progress has been made. A strategic framework is in place to guide policies, additional dedicated staff resources have been appointed and concrete actions are underway to understand the impact of ICRC's activities and how best to mitigate this.</p>		 Significant progress	
<p>Transparency and accountability Progress is being made. Steps have been taken to increase transparency, in particular with donors. ICRC continues to ensure the views of beneficiaries are taken into account in their programmes and activities.</p>		 Reasonable progress	