

World Health Organization (WHO)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:



MAR 2011: Adequate Value for Money for UK Aid

Progress assessment	
Summary	Progress made in explaining how its work can deliver results, improved financial systems and clear evidence of cost cutting. More to be done on demonstrating results in developing countries.
Baseline	
<p>WHO is the directing and co-ordinating authority for health within the United Nations. Its mission is the attainment of the highest possible level of health for all.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides global leadership on development and humanitarian health matters and is critical to the delivery of health related MDGs (4, 5 and 6). • Contributes to UK objectives on global health, development and human security. • Partners are well represented in governance mechanisms and policy and guidance are accessible on its website. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no clear results chain or formal systems to follow up on evaluation recommendations. • There is no clear and transparent system to allocate aid. • Targets for savings on administration costs are not stretching and there is little attention to cost saving in developing countries. <p>DFID's reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a strengthened results chain and framework which should include indicators, baseline and targets at all levels – assessed under <u>contribution to results</u>; • More focussed approach to what WHO delivers and improved performance management systems – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>; • Strengthened accountability framework providing transparent reporting of allocation and monitoring of finances, particularly in developing countries – assessed under <u>financial resources management</u>; • Improved systems to facilitate efficiency savings – assessed under <u>cost and value consciousness</u>. 	
Summary of overall progress	
<p>Progress has been made by WHO to address the reforms, in particular to ensure a clearer results chain and strengthened financial systems and has made significant cost savings. More still needs to be done to ensure these reforms are rolled out to the regional and country levels of WHO.</p>	

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Progress against reform priorities			
MAR reform component	MAR 2011 score	Progress rating	MAR Update score, if any change
<p>Contribution to results New work programme and budget articulate the theory of change and indicate a clear results chain that links WHO's activities to health and development outcomes nationally, regionally and globally. Indicators, baselines and targets have also been introduced. However, evidence remains limited to show progress on results in developing countries.</p>		 Reasonable progress	
<p>Strategic and performance management Some progress made on focussing activities and clarifying its mandate. However, progress is slower on improving performance management systems in the organisation, especially staff performance management and culture.</p>		 Some progress	
<p>Financial resources management The Global Management System now gives greater access to information about resource use and implementation of programmes. WHO has also fully implemented IPSAS and strengthened its internal control framework and audit capacity.</p>		 Reasonable progress	
<p>Cost and value consciousness WHO has improved efficiency and reduced costs by relocating many of its administrative functions to low cost locations, such as Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.</p>		 Reasonable progress	