United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)

SCORE: 74
POSITION: 17/47
2020 GOOD

OVERVIEW

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA operates Specially Designated Contributions to third parties, including Country-Based Pooled Funds and the Central Emergency Response Fund, as well as the UN’s Disaster Assessment and Coordination Mission Accounts. It also manages the Financial Tracking Service, a clearing house of information on international humanitarian funding flows. OCHA is not an IATI member but first published to the IATI Registry in June 2014.

2018 POOR
2016 POOR
2014 FAIR
2013 FAIR

Organisational planning and commitments 10.9 / 15
Finance and budgets 23.2 / 25
Project attributes 16.5 / 20
Joining-up development data 18.3 / 20
Performance 5 / 20

ANALYSIS

OCHA moved up into the 'good' category after having been in the poor category in the 2018 Index. It published to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis.

OCHA scored above average for the finance and budgets component, only losing points for project budget documents which failed our quality sampling. For the joining-up development data component, it scored against all indicators and only lost points for the tenders and contracts indicators. OCHA scored averagely for the organisational planning and commitments component and lost points for accessibility, FOI legislation, and country/sector strategies. For the performance component, all four indicators failed our IATI quality checks, and while it provided objectives and pre-project impact appraisals in other formats, it did not publish results or reviews and evaluations. For the project attributes component, OCHA scored maximum points except for the sub-national location indicator, which it did not publish.

OCHA failed the sub-national location indicator because it only provided information at the national level. We found the assigned project budget documents to be only an overview of the project rather than a specific breakdown of the project budget. We found results and reviews and evaluations to be too general to pass the indicator definition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- OCHA should prioritise impact transparency by publishing its objectives, pre-project impact appraisals, results, and reviews and evaluations to meet the necessary standards.
- OCHA should increase its publication of documents including contracts, tenders, and project budget documents to the IATI Registry.
- OCHA should prioritise the identification and publication of sub-national location data to enable stakeholders to determine where interventions are taking place within a country’s borders.
Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 10.9 / 15

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at the overall aims and strategy of an organisation. We check for any public commitments to aid transparency. We also make sure audits are in place and if planning documents have been published, including by parent organisations (including national governments) where applicable. We make note of any Freedom of Information laws and critically, we make sure that organisations have tried to make their information easy to access and understand. You should not have to be an expert in open data to be able to find and use this information.

Finance and budgets

Score: 23.2 / 25

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component is critical to allow you and anyone else to follow the money. We expect to find the total budget of the organisation being assessed, right down to individual transactions for each development activity. In particular, forward-looking budgets from donors are important for partner country governments to be able to plan their own future finances.
Project attributes

Score: 16.5 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component refers to descriptive, non-financial data, including basics like the title and description of a project. Information like this is important as it is often the entry point for data users to quickly understand what a project is about. We also look for other information that helps to put a project in context, such as its sub-national location (rather than simply being pin pointed to a capital city or the centre of a country) or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

Joining-up development data

Score: 18.3 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at how well a donor's data is able to be linked and connected with other bits of information. There is a diverse nature of flows, activities and actors within the development sector. Aid and development finance data needs to be effectively linked and connected with the rest to provide a full picture for the user. This can be particularly important for
partner country governments, who need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.

Performance
Score: 5 / 20

ABOUT COMPONENT
This component refers to the essential data and documents that assess whether a project is on track or has been achieved. This includes things like baseline surveys, progress against targets, mid-term reviews and end of project evaluations. This information is important to hold donors to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.

Objective Status
Score: 2.5

Pre-project impact appraisals
Score: 2.5

Reviews and evaluations
Score: 0

Results
Score: 0