United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

SCORE: 92.9
POSITION: 6/47
2020
VERY GOOD

OVERVIEW
The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is the United Nations agency responsible for children’s welfare. It operates offices in over 190 countries. UNICEF became an IATI member in 2012 and first published IATI data in 2013. UNICEF has been on the IATI governing board since 2016.

2018
GOOD
2016
VERY GOOD
2014
GOOD
2013
FAIR

ANALYSIS
UNICEF moved from ‘good’ to ‘very good’ in the 2020 Index with an improvement of 14 points. It now ranks sixth in the Index. UNICEF continued to publish to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis. It published over ninety-five percent of all indicators in the IATI format.

UNICEF was one of only three donors to score full points for the finance and budgets component with full three-year forward-looking and disaggregated data on organisational and project budgets.

UNICEF also scored full points for the joining-up development data component with full IATI publication across all data sets. It improved on its 2018 data score by adding full procurement data to the IATI Registry.

It also performed well in project attributes indicators, scoring 96 percent of the available points with full IATI Registry publication. It only lost points for sub-national locations because it published narratives while omitting coordinates/points.

UNICEF performed well for all the indicators within the organisational planning component, namely organisation strategy, annual report, allocation policy, audit, procurement policy, and country strategies, which we found to be current and up to date in its IATI organisational file. We only scored down its FOI policy due to a lack of an independent appeals process and because third party information is included in its list of exceptions without an objective harm test.

UNICEF received 75 percent of the points within the performance component. It started publishing full objectives, results, and reviews and evaluations to the IATI Registry. However, we only sometimes found information on pre-project impact appraisals in other formats through its open aid data portal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- UNICEF should focus on providing subnational location coordinates/points information for its development projects.
- It should start publishing consistent updated and detailed pre-project impact appraisals.
- It should improve its FOI policy to ensure it aligns closer with the FOI standards, particularly with regards to an independent appeals process.
Organisational planning and commitments
Score: 13.7 / 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: 25 / 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

**About the 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 pinpointed to a capital city or the centre of a country) or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

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# Joining-up development data

**About the 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

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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: 15 / 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.

- **Tied aid status**
  - Score: 3.33

- **Conditions**
  - Score: 3.33

- **Project procurement**
  - Score: 3.33

- **Objectives**
  - Score: 5

- **Pre-project impact appraisals**
  - Score: 0

- **Reviews and evaluations**
  - Score: 5

- **Results**
  - Score: 5