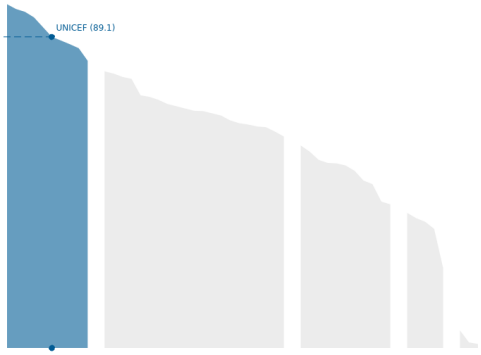
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



SCORE: 89.1	POSITION: 6/50	2022 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.

2020 VERY GOOD	2018 GOOD	2016 VERY GOOD	2014 GOOD	2013 FAIR

Organisational planning and commitments
13.7 / 15

Finance and budgets
25 / 25

Project attributes
18.8 / 20

Joining-up development data
19.2 / 20

Performance
12.5 / 20

ANALYSIS

UNICEF dropped nearly four points this year but remained in the 'very good' category for the second Index running. It ranks sixth in the Index and is the top scoring UN agency. UNICEF continued to publish to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis.

UNICEF was the only organisation to score full points for finance and budgets, its best performing component. It disclosed full three year forward-looking organisational budgets and disaggregated project budgets.

UNICEF scored very well in the joining-up development data component with full IATI publication across all data sets. It slightly dropped on its 2020 data score as UNICEF lost points on the networked data organisation reference test. It only published organisation references for less than 30% of activities.

UNICEF performed very well in project attributes indicators, scoring 94% of the available points with full IATI Registry publication. It only lost points for the conditions indicator, which failed data quality checks, because it published general conditions documents rather than project specific conditions.

UNICEF also performed particularly well for all the indicators within theorganisational planning and commitments component. It disclosed its organisation strategy, annual report, allocation policy, audit, procurement policy, and country strategies, which are current and up to date in its IATI organisational file. Its access to information policy was the only indicator to be scored down due to the lack of an independent appeals process.

UNICEF's lowest scoring component was performance where it dropped over two points on the 2020 Index. UNICEF is publishing objectives, results, and reviews and evaluations to the IATI Registry. However, objectives failed data quality checks due to the provision of general links. These were found in other formats. Pre-project impact appraisals were not published, and we did not find these in other formats through its open aid data portal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- UNICEF should focus on providing project specific conditions for its activities.
- UNICEF can improve and expand the publication of recognised organisation references for its partners using the latest guidance from the IATI community to help stakeholders identify who is implementing and/or participating in its projects.
- It should start publishing detailed pre-project impact appraisals.
- It should improve its access to information policy to ensure it aligns more closely with the international standards, particularly with regards to an independent appeals process.

DEEP DIVE

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 published 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

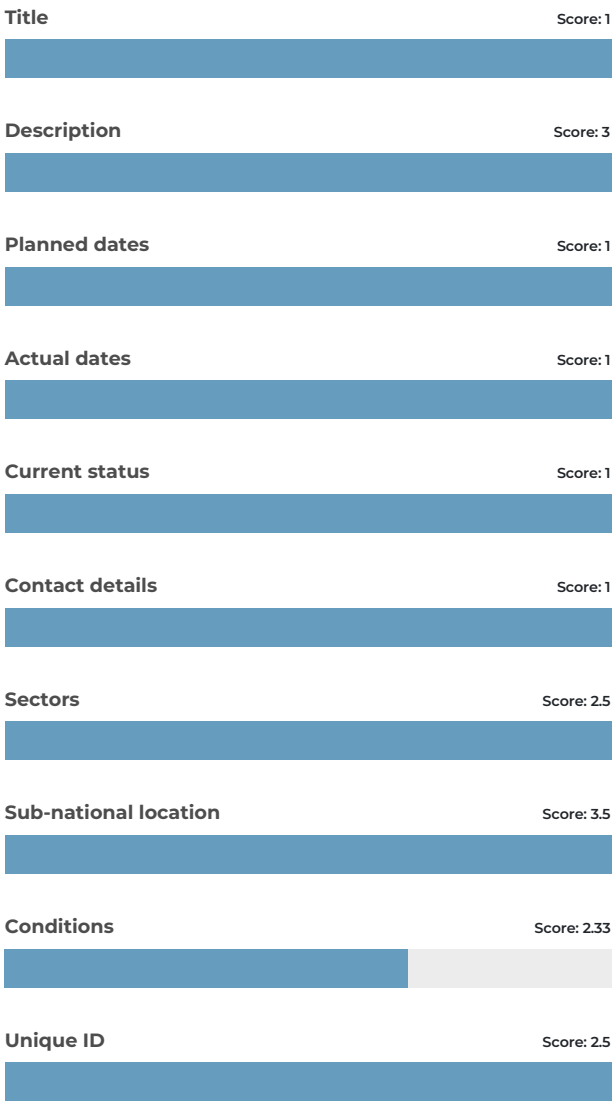
This component is critical to allow you and anyone else to follow the money. We expect to find the total budget of the organisation being assessed, right down to individual transactions for each development activity. In particular, forward-looking budgets from donors are important for partner country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

Project attributes

Score: 18.8 / 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 or the sector that the project deals with, for example, education or agriculture.

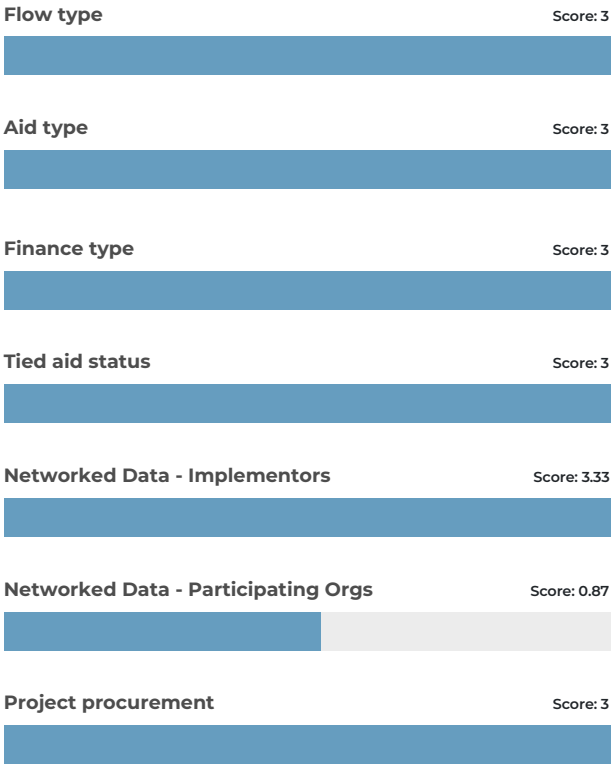


Joining-up development data

Score: 19.2 / 20

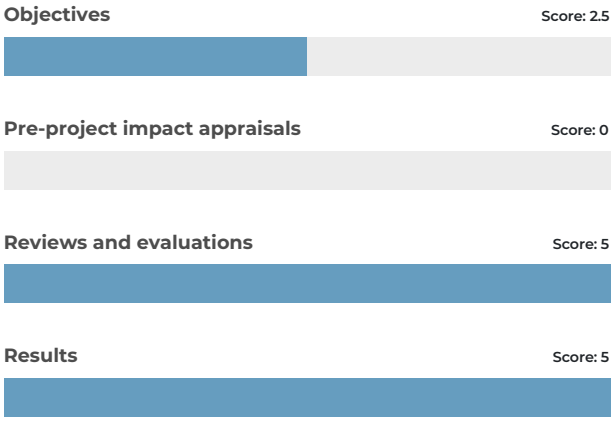
ABOUT COMPONENT

This component looks at how well an organisation'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, which need to integrate information on aid with their own budgets and systems.



Performance

Score: 12.5 / 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 aid organisations to account and also to share knowledge with others on what worked and what did not during a project.