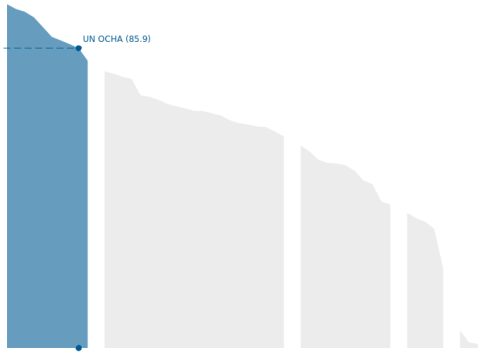
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)



SCORE: 85.9	POSITION: 9/50	2022 VERY 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.

2020 GOOD	2018 POOR	2016 POOR	2014 FAIR	2013 FAIR

Organisational planning and commitments
13.3 / 15

Finance and budgets
23.1 / 25

Project attributes
18.8 / 20

Joining-up development data
19 / 20

Performance
11.7 / 20

ANALYSIS

OCHA significantly improved its score by 12 points this year moving up into the 'very good' category for the first time. It published to the IATI Registry on a monthly basis.

OCHA scored above average for the finance and budgets component, publishing data to the IATI Registry for all the indicators. It only lost points for project budget documents which failed our quality sampling as links were either broken or documents were out of date.

For joining-up development data, OCHA scored particularly well, coming in the top 10 across all organisations for this component. It scored against all indicators and only lost points for the tenders and contracts indicators. The contracts indicator failed our quality checks as there was a lack of project specific contracts.

OCHA improved its score for the organisational planning and commitments component by just over two points compared to the 2020 Index. OCHA lost points for its access to information policy as it lacks an independent appeals process and country/sector strategies as not all strategies were available or up to date. However, these were found in other formats on a UN contracts award site.

For the project attributes component, OCHA scored maximum points except for the sub-national location indicator, which failed our data quality checks. OCHAs sub-national location coordinates are not always consistent with project documentation.

While OCHA improved its score on the performance component by over seven points, it is still OCHAs worst performing component. OCHA scored below average for its grouping. Three of the four indicators failed our IATI quality checks but objectives, pre-project impact appraisals, and results were provided in other formats.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- OCHA should prioritise impact transparency by publishing objectives, pre-project impact appraisals and results, already available in other formats, to the IATI Registry.
- OCHA should increase its publication of procurement documents, particularly disclosing project-specific contracts to the IATI Registry.
- OCHA can improve its finance and budgets score by fixing links and disclosing up to date project budget documents (available in other formats) which include humanitarian response plans.
- It should improve the publication of sub-national location data to enable stakeholders to determine where interventions are taking place within a country's borders.
- OCHA should provide timely country strategy documents, including up to date humanitarian response plans.

DEEP DIVE

Organisational planning and commitments

Score: 13.3 / 15

ABOUT COMPONENT

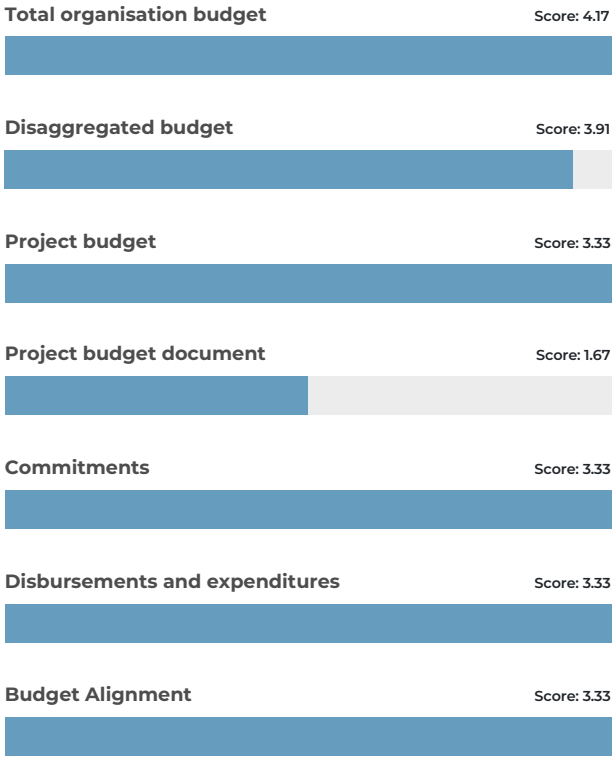
This component looks at the overall aims and strategy of an organisation. We check for any public commitments to aid transparency. We also make sure audits are published and if planning documents have been published, including by parent organisations (including national governments) where applicable. 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: 23.1 / 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.

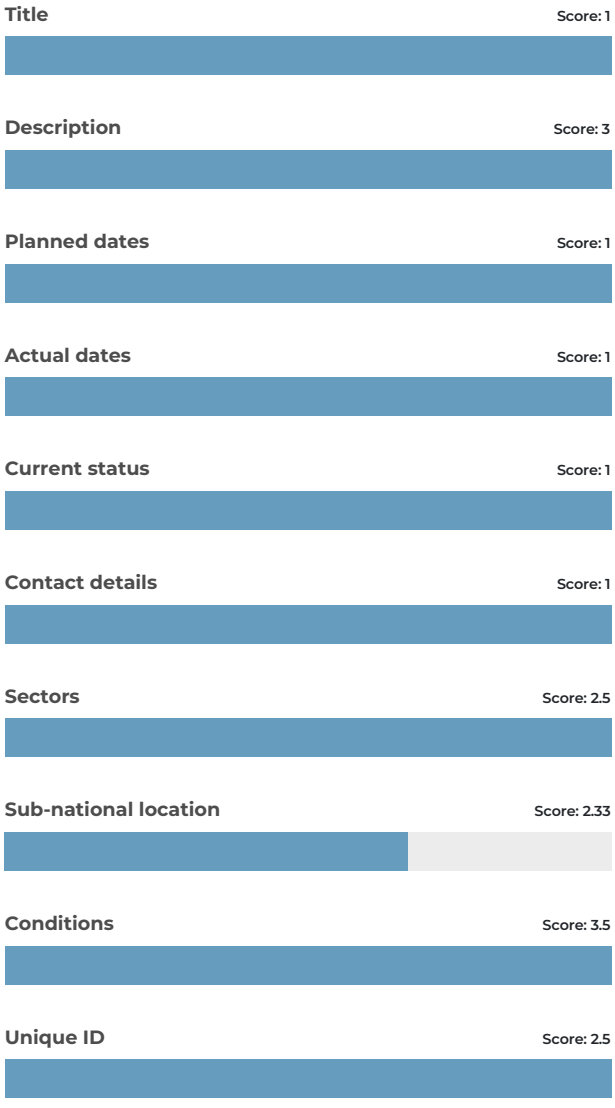


Project attributes

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.

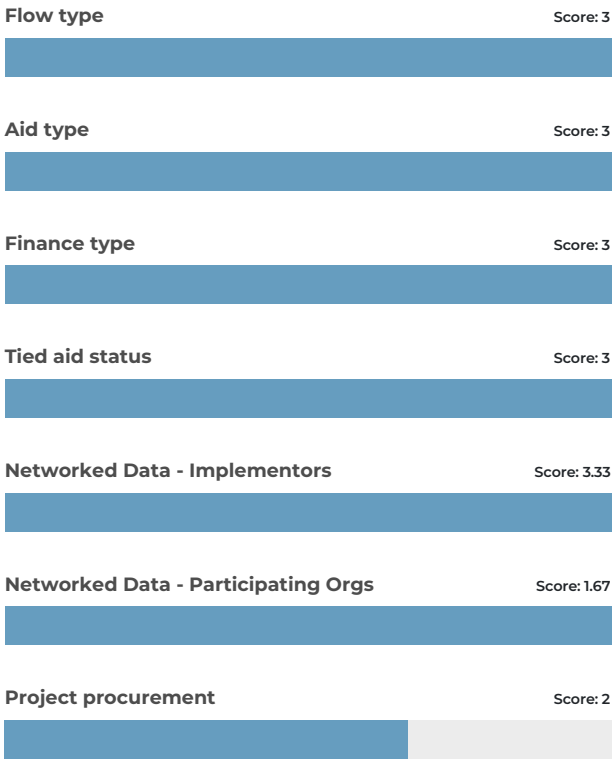


Joining-up development data

Score: 19 / 20

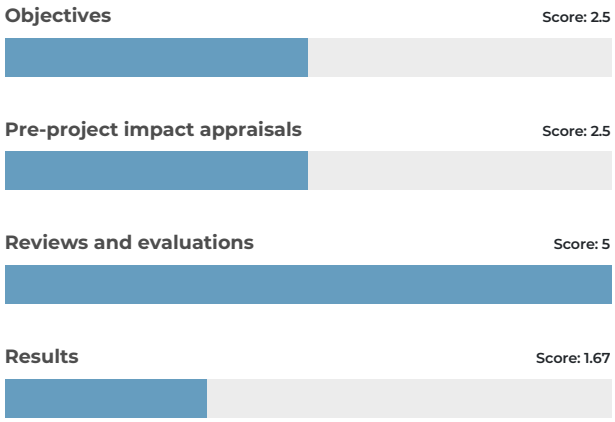
ABOUT COMPONENT

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: 11.7 / 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.