

# DFAT MULTILATERAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

2020-21 Core funding estimate to multilateral organisations (AUD m*)	
International Financial Institutions	\$388.3
UN Development Agencies	\$65.8
Global Health Programs	\$136.6
International Humanitarian Agencies	\$106.0
<b>Total ODA</b>	<b>\$ 696.7</b>

\*Actual expenditure is expected to be available at the end of 2021

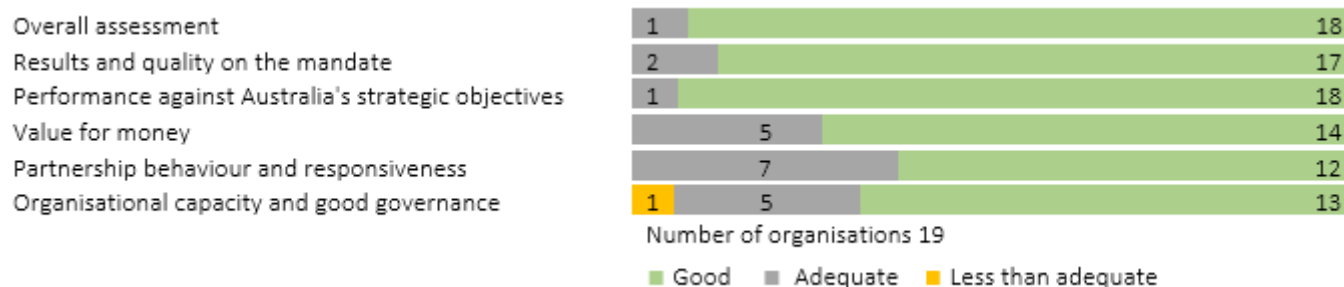


## CONTEXT

A safe, healthy and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, is firmly in Australia’s national interest. Australia’s *Partnerships for Recovery* sets out development priorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Australian funded multilateral organisations play an important role supporting *Partnerships for Recovery* alongside Australia’s country and regional programs. They are also helping countries in our region to meet the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. This report provides a snapshot of the performance of key Australian-funded multilateral organisations during 2020-21 in support of *Partnerships for Recovery*. Aggregated ratings and key, overall findings have been compiled from DFAT’s internal performance reporting for the largest core-funded multilateral organisations. The report complements DFAT country and regional Progress Reports.

## OVERALL ASSESSMENT

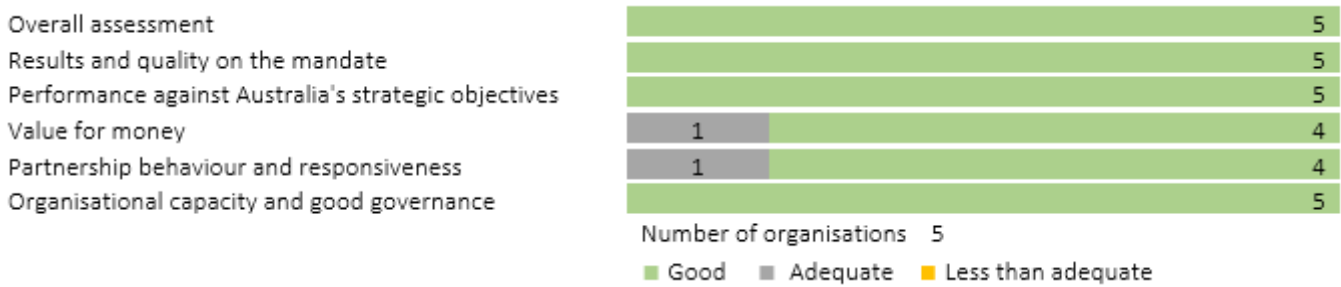
Overall, Australian funded multilateral organisations demonstrated good performance in the delivery of *Partnerships for Recovery*. They remain trusted partners and represent value for money for our core funding investments despite challenging operating environments and the COVID-19 pandemic. They have mobilised significant resources swiftly to help countries in the Indo-Pacific region respond to the pandemic and its impacts by providing life-saving assistance while addressing long-term development needs. Australia’s sustained advocacy led to a stronger focus on the Pacific, gender equality, disability inclusiveness and United Nations (UN) reform. Some gaps in organisational capacity, governance and evidence-based reporting point to areas for improvement, including in results reporting, communication, staffing in the Pacific and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. Australia is supporting actions to improve performance in these areas through the governing boards of these organisations and ongoing operational engagement.





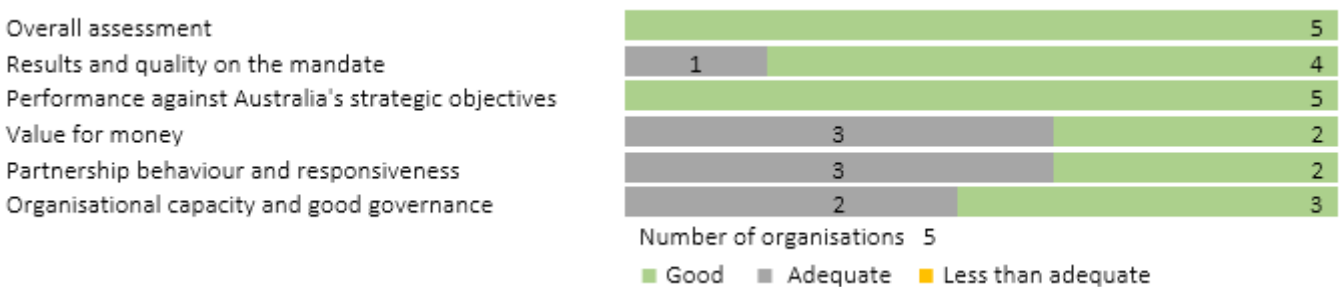
### OVERALL ASSESSMENT: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

The International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are strong and trusted partners for Australia. They have been major actors in the global COVID-19 response providing rapid deployment of financial resources to the health emergency and longer-term socio-economic consequences. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the IFIs have demonstrated their capacity to adapt and have continued to achieve results over 2020-21, including in our region. Australia’s sustained advocacy on key policy priorities (strong allocations to the Pacific; greater leveraging of Multilateral Development Banks’ balance sheets; measures to strengthen debt sustainability, gender equality, climate change and disability inclusion) has resulted in several positive outcomes and reforms. While performance is good overall, there are areas for improvement, including better communication and/or delivery of certain strategic priorities (e.g. gender equality mainstreaming and results reporting); improved methods for managing projects in the current COVID-19 environment, particularly in the Pacific; and enhanced outcomes reporting. Australia will actively engage with the IFIs to address these issues.



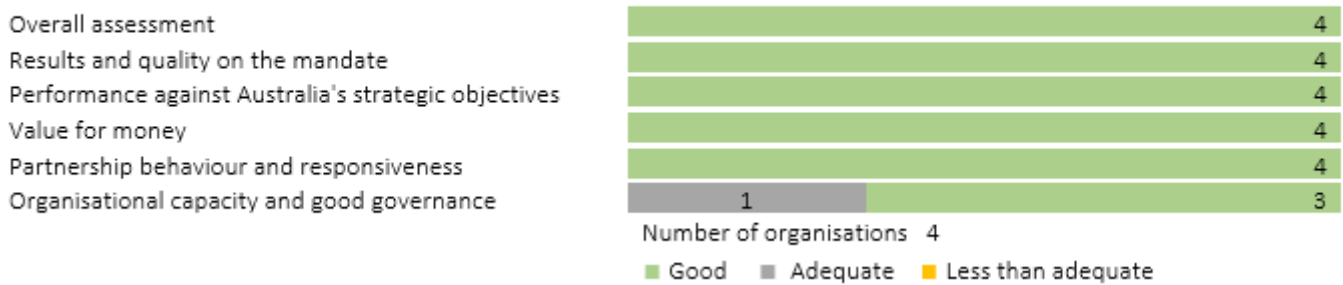
### OVERALL ASSESSMENT: UN DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

UN development agencies performed effectively despite challenging operating environments exacerbated by COVID-19. A strong in-country presence enabled their swift response to the pandemic, leading the UN’s social and economic response while collaborating with others. They continued to meet ongoing development needs and uphold norms and values important to Australia. Our advocacy helped UN development agencies maintain a strong focus on delivering results for gender equality, disability inclusion, and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and increased support for Small Island Developing States. They are trusted partners and demonstrate value for money investments. Notwithstanding generally good performance, responsiveness, and progress with UN reform, areas to improve include results reporting, data, communication, staffing in the Pacific and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. Australia continues to work with the UN development agencies to support strengthened policies and actions to address these issues.



## OVERALL ASSESSMENT: GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Global Health Programs are playing a critical role in COVID-19 response efforts and are trusted partners. They mobilised swiftly to coordinate response efforts at a global, regional and country level to support national responses and deliver lifesaving vaccines, diagnostics, oxygen, Personal Protective Equipment and medical support, alongside support for continuation of essential health services. Australia's advocacy supported independent reviews into the global response to COVID-19 and we will continue to shape reform of the global health architecture. While overall performance has been strong, the pandemic has increased risk with significant pressure on health systems. There are areas for improvement including, transparency, data and results, better integration of innovative finance, stronger focus on human rights and gender equality results, and ongoing implementation of organisational reform including to fraud policies, and sexual exploitation and assault policies. Australia is working with these organisations to strengthen performance in these areas.



## OVERALL ASSESSMENT: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

Humanitarian multilateral partners delivered life-saving assistance to millions of people affected by humanitarian crises despite operational challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While each organisation has a unique mandate, most performed to a strong standard in delivering on Australia's strategic objectives against the *Partnerships for Recovery*. Partners successfully pivoted programs and systems to address unfolding challenges, including via COVID-19 responses, and continued to deliver value for money in the face of increased humanitarian needs in the Indo-Pacific and beyond, particularly Afghanistan, and in the Middle East and Africa. Partners must continue to innovate to ensure delivery structures adequately address emerging risks and organisational capacity and governance and reporting remain fit for purpose. This includes strengthening monitoring of programs and downstream partners (especially in remote settings). Australia is actively working with these humanitarian agencies to address these issues.

