

Scorecard: Output reporting and accessibility

World Bank

3.36 / 4

3.7 / 4 – Output accessibility

- Is project-level data centralized and accessible?

4.0 / 4 – Ease of extraction

- Are project-level reports standardized and available in open formats?

3.4 / 4 – Output reporting clarity

- How frequently and consistently are outputs reported?

1.7 / 4 – Output Dataset Transparency

- Are tabular and/ or spatial datasets gathered and available?

4.0 / 4 – Output Reporting System

- Are there project-level reporting policies in place?

* Scores based on one-country sample (Ghana)

Next steps/ suggested improvements

1. Publish the results information found in standardized reports like [Implementation Completion Reports \(ICR\)](#) and [Implementation Status and Results Reports \(ISSR\)](#) as standalone datasets
 - Currently, ICRs and ISSRs are not offered in database format such as .xlsx or .csv, and contain non-database formatted information in text/paragraph format
 - Publishing just the quantitative information in these reports as standalone datasets would allow users to quickly scrape results information
2. Track and publish geospatial information for all projects at the most local level possible. Specific geographic information is infrequently specified for individual outputs. When this information is available, it is typically available only for a handful of outputs and disaggregated at the district or region level
 - The outputs in the documentation for 25/40 (62.5%) projects aren't geographically disaggregated.
 - The documentation for 4/40 (10%) contains at least 1 output disaggregated at the regional level; an additional 3/40 (7.5%) at the district level, and 8/40 (20%) at the city/town level

3. Allow for batch exporting of all project-specific data, such as associated documents, datasets, results information, procurements and expenditures data, and geospatial project maps.

Subcomponent breakdown and justifications

Category	Component	Score	Discussion
Monitoring Data Accessibility	Site Stability	4	At no point through multiple visits to the site over the course of 4 months did the team experience an interruption like server error or missing page
	Site Navigability	3	The site's structure is largely user friendly and well planned, though improvements could be made to enable users to more easily download all project-specific data (documents, datasets, results, procurements, expenditures, geospatial project maps, etc.) in one export
	Central Portal or Site	4	All project documents available through central portal (http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/country)
Ease of Automatic Monitoring Data Extraction	Use of Open Formats	4	Documentation for all but one project exists in .txt format. However, this odd project out can likely be explained by the fact it is probably coded as a "Research Project," and not a part of "Projects and Operations" like the rest of the sample.
	Distribution of Monitoring Template to Project Teams	4	Toolkit of standardized output templates includes Implementation Completion Reports (ICR) (http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/12/24/000386194_20121224050237/Rendered/PDF/NonAsciiFileName0.pdf) and Implementation Status and Results Report (ISRR). Other non-output oriented standardized forms exist, such as the Project Information Document (PID) and Project Performance Assessment Report (PPAR). It appears all project teams have access to ICR templates and resources through Operations Portal.
	Use of Standardized Monitoring Template	4	All but one WB project has at least one ICR and/or ISRR. Again, the odd project out may be considered a "Research Project," and therefore should not be included in our sample.
Monitoring and Reporting Clarity	Legibility of Results Documentation	4	Output documents for all documents are available as .txt or .pdf files; no scanned forms exist
	Completeness of Monitoring Reporting	3.5	40/40 (100%) contain output information
	Internal Consistency with Results Terminology	3	WB defines outputs as "the supply-side deliverables, including the events, products, capital goods or services that result from a development intervention (e.g., construction of a school). The key distinction between an output (a specific good or service) and an outcome is that an output typically is a change in the supply of goods and services (supply side), while an outcome reflects changes in the utilization of goods and services (demand side)." In the same terminology reference, WB gives a single definition to one type of output and outcome: "An Intermediate Outcome specifies a result proximate to an intended final outcome, but likely more measurable and achievable in the lifetime of a project to an intended final outcome. Example: Teachers use the new teaching methods (output/intermediate outcome) to improve learning among students (final outcome)." This makes it difficult to ascertain how WB defines the difference between an output and an outcome. In project documentation, reported outputs often straddle this line. Often, for example, a policy change enacted by a national or local government is defined as an "output" of the project, though it could be argued that WB would see this as more of an outcome.

	Precision of Monitoring Reporting	3	Outputs are routinely reporting using exact, precise terms including counts and percentages. In some cases, project documentation reports outputs using ambiguous, unquantified language. Successes are sometimes reported, for example, as "exceeding expectations" in "half of the project sites," without reporting precise metrics against which to judge "expectations" nor exactly how many project sites were included in the project. This forces the reader to make assumptions about what "exceeding" really means, as well as approximately how many "half" is.
Monitoring Dataset Transparency	Availability of Monitoring Datasets	2	Information contained in the M&E manuals notes that project teams have access to an Operations Portal into which they submit project information such as outputs, outcomes, and expenditures. Without access inside the Portal, however, we cannot be sure that the reporting scheme of outputs fits into the definition of "dataset" as defined by RDI
	Accessibility of Monitoring Datasets	1	Output information is reported in part through standardized reports like ICRs and ISSRs. Though standardization is a central aspect of a dataset, standardization does not make a dataset; datasets as defined by RDI need to have columns, rows, and cells. Though the standardized way WB reports outcomes is a step towards a dataset, it is not yet a full dataset
	Availability of Monitoring Spatial Data	2	Project locations map available here (http://maps.worldbank.org/p2e/mcmap/index.html), but map does not include outputs. Project documentation contains georeferenced output information 27.5% of the time. About half of this 27.5% of projects, though, report these outputs only at the region or district level, which isn't as useful as information referenced at the city/town level.
	Accessibility of Monitoring Spatial Data	2	Specific geographic information is infrequently specified for individual outputs; when this information is available, it is typically available only for a handful of outputs and disaggregated at the district or region level. In rare cases, outputs are disaggregated at the town/city level. The outputs in the documentation for 25/40 (62.5%) WB projects aren't geographically disaggregated. The documentation for 4/40 (10%) contain at least 1 output disaggregated at the regional level; an additional 3/40 (7.5%) at the district level, and 8/40 (20%) at the city/town level.
Monitoring and Reporting System	Standardized Terminology	4	Results terminology (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTISPMA/Resources/383704-1184250322738/3986044-1250881992889/04_WorldBank_Results_Terminology.pdf)
	Monitoring and Reporting Policy or Framework	4	M&E Guidance here (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/PROJECTS/Resources/40940-1365611011935/Guidance_Note_Results_and_M&E.pdf) and additional guidance and reporting specifics here (http://ieg.worldbank.org/Data/reports/gfr_wp_april2012.pdf)
	Free Public Access to Monitoring Information Policy	4	WB provides a much of its project level data to the public free of charge and in an easily searchable way; importantly, all data, information, and report types that are not routinely released to the public are outlined in detail in Section III of the Access to Information (AI) policy (http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/pubdocs/publicdoc/2015/7/393051435850102801/World-Bank-Policy-on-Access-to-Information.pdf). The AI FAQ states the following: "Most operational information is routinely posted on the Bank's external website and can be downloaded free of charge. For any request for information that is not routinely posted, the Bank may charge reasonable fees for providing digital or hard copies, particularly for requests that are complex or time-consuming. Publications, some specialized databases, and other knowledge products (including subscription-based services) may be purchased through the Bank's online bookstore (http://publications.worldbank.org). The full text of World Bank research and books published by the Bank may be viewed and downloaded free of charge from the Open Knowledge Repository (http://openknowledge.worldbank.org)." SOURCE: http://www.worldbank.org/en/access-to-information .