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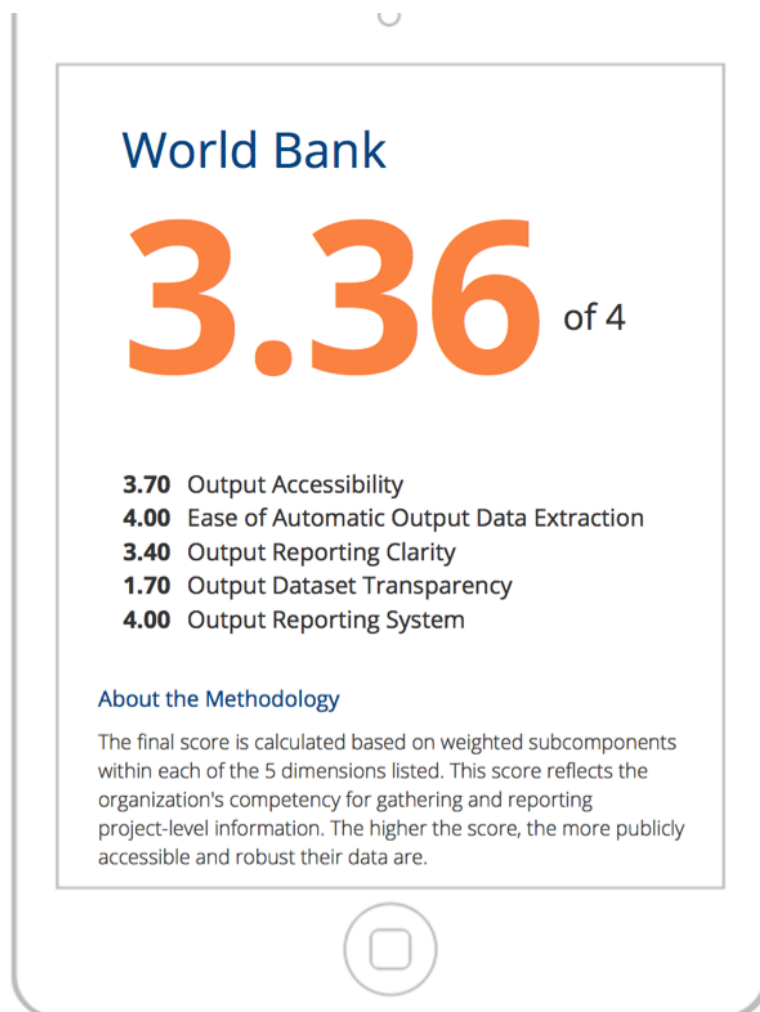
# The Results Data Scorecard: A glimpse at the importance and accessibility of results data

Aug 16, 2016 • Katherine Wikrent and Danny Walker

A key component of the [Results Data Initiative](#) (RDI) was the development of the [Results Data Scorecard](#), a mechanism for assessing how development organizations gather and publish results information. Improving how DPs track and report results has the potential to reduce duplication of efforts and improve programming effectiveness – critical if we are to meet the SDGs.

So how accessible and useful are development partners' results data? Not very: the most common source for results information is project documentation, oftentimes in PDF format. But based on our analysis, neither the PDF formats, nor differences across organizational templates, are major barriers to crosswalking results data. [In fact, we were able to get the data through scraping and data algorithms.](#) Rather, **the key barrier to useful results data has to do with varying levels of data openness and completeness.** By making improvements to **existing internal reporting templates**, development partners can make their information more accessible and comparable.

And that's where the scorecard comes in. Our Scorecard – accessible at the bottom of the [RDI data visualization page](#) – assesses the quality of DP monitoring systems across five categories, and generates a composite score per organization.



*Figure 1: World Bank's Scorecard*

The scores are based on a subset (not a complete sample) of results data sources from each DP. All sub-scores and the composite score are rated on a scale of 0-4, with 4 being the highest possible score; we'll delve into the specifics of what each category means and the criteria (submetrics) that figure into the calculation in our next post. The goal of this Scorecard is not to name and shame DPs. Rather, we aim to illuminate ways in which existing M&E data, systems, and tools can be improved, to help DPs reach the goals they set for themselves.

To begin these conversations, we are using the results of our analysis to craft tailored recommendations on a DP-by-DP basis. Below is just a brief preview of a few recommendations we have included in our donor-specific Scorecard reports. We will

*Table 1: Sample Scorecard Recommendations*

Donor	Recommendation	Why it Matters
FAO	Make project documentation publically available.	Currently, none of the projects in our sample offered project documentation. This documentation should include basic metadata such as project timeline, budget, and location. The documentation should also include logic model/ results framework information such as inputs, activities, outputs, and outcomes. Even better documentation would include geocoded information. Offering these data will increase transparency, improve operations, and allow for data reuse and collaboration.
AfDB	Streamline operations information contained in the "Project Portfolio" and "Projects and Operations" subsections of the site.	Information across these 2 pages is inconsistent; for example, searching for agriculture projects in Ghana through the "Project Portfolio" database of the "Projects & Operations" subsection returns only 3 results, but searching for the same through the "Projects & Operations" database of the "Documents" subsection. This inconsistency limits the transparency of activities because end users cannot easily form a cohesive picture of what AfDB is doing and where.

While we continue our conversations with donors about our findings from the Scorecard exercise, readers can look forward to four upcoming posts that will provide deeper insight into our methodology, metrics, findings, and recommendations. We hope that series of posts will encourage development stakeholders to consider how revamping M&E and data systems can lead to cost savings, improved outcomes, and heightened accountability and transparency – stay tuned!

*Image:* [Ashwani Kumar Ojha CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

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