

DFID Management Response to the Independent Commission for Aid Impact recommendations on:

DFID Education Programmes in Nigeria, 4 December 2012

ICAI Recommendation	Accept/ Reject	Action already taken	Action to be taken	Target date
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>DFID should create a single education programme out of GEP and ESSPIN in 2014 focussing rigorously on improving basic reading, writing and arithmetic in the early years of primary schooling and building on the lesson learned, with aligned initiatives for teacher training and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We reject this recommendation. DFID's support to the latest phase of UNICEF's Girls' Education Project is at an early stage. UNICEF should be given the opportunity to deliver against agreed milestones (see Recommendation 3, which we accept). • To have one programme service provider managing support to education in ten or more states (each equivalent to a small country) would concentrate and increase operational risks. The coverage of our existing programmes may rise to approximately 21,000 government schools, which illustrates the scale of the challenge. 		
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>DFID should work with its partners and each participating State to secure a clear agreement about the policy changes and financial contributions required to improve enrolment and learning and to introduce effective</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Partnership Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are in place for all DFID focus states in which ESSPIN operates. • Quarterly and bi-annual meetings are being held between GEP and ESSPIN and State Education Commissioners to review results in each state. • DFID State Representatives working in most of the States in which our education 	<p>2.1 GEP3 plans to sign State MoUs outlining policy and financial commitments needed from States. They will be in place by the first full Annual Review.</p> <p>2.2 State-by-State performance comparisons will be available by end of the academic year. DFID will review the results of a new monitoring tool recently</p>	<p>Sept 2013</p> <p>June 2013</p>

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financial management and resource planning into education. There should be regular reviews of performance with States, based on school-level data.		programmes are operating hold regular discussions with key official such as Budget and Finance Commissioners.	put in place: to track State budget release and utilisation against annual budgets. This will be reported to DFID on a quarterly basis to inform lobbying efforts.	
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>DFID should work with UNICEF to achieve significant improvement in the performance of GEP3 over the next 12 months against agreed targets, with a review of progress by DFID after six months.</p>	Accept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFID and UNICEF are reviewing the six State logical frameworks, work plans and budgets for GEP Phase 3. An updated monitoring and reporting strategy and logframe will be produced and agreed with DFID during December. This process is enabling us to take into account the views of the ICAI team. 	3.1 A decision on the shape and scale of continued DFID support to UNICEF will be taken after the first full Annual Review.	Sept 2013
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>DFID should address implementation issues that are limiting the impact of the two programmes in relation to the Female Trainee Teachers Scholarship Scheme, School-Based Management Committees and Qur'anic schools.</p>	Partially Accept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFID has met the respective Governor and Education Commissioner of Katsina and Sokoto states to address implementation concerns about release of FTTSS funds, and SBMCs. The ESSPIN programme piloted school feeding in Qur'anic schools, but found it costly to manage and unlikely to be sustainable. 	4.1 DFID will identify ways of further supporting FTTSS graduates, and review progress on support to SBMCs by UNICEF in the next full Annual Review.	Sept 2013