

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

**Evaluation of DFID'S Electoral Support Through UNDP, April 2012**

ICAI Recommendation	Accept/Partially Accept/Reject	Original Management Response		March 2013 Update
		Action	Target Date	
<b>Recommendation 1:</b> DFID should actively cultivate alternative delivery channels suitable for implementing electoral support. This means seeking out alternative or additional implementing partners where feasible, in order to complement and compare with UNDP and to provide additional resources for capacity-building.	Accept	1. Comprehensive information & capability statements from non-UNDP providers to be made available to DFID staff, including areas of comparative advantage, geographic expertise and presence, and lessons / evaluations from previous programmes.	October 2012	<b>Completed</b> We provided DFID's network of country office advisors leading on election assistance with information and capability statements on non-UNDP providers in September 2012.  This will also be made available to all DFID and FCO staff through a new online information platform in the first half of 2013. Such information will be updated in future through this platform.
<b>Recommendation 2.1:</b> DFID should immediately engage with the UN at headquarters and local levels to improve performance. This should	Accept	2. DFID will continue to support UNDP's reform agenda, particularly those relating to human resources and cost control. DFID will engage with the UN 5 <sup>th</sup> Committee, through the UK Mission to the UN to ensure greater UN	Negotiations Sept to Dec 2012	<b>Completed</b> DFID engaged strongly on the drafting of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review including on results reporting and 'one-UN' delivery. The UK

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form part of the 2013 update to the Multilateral Aid Review of UNDP by DFID.		system effectiveness on Human Resource issues. DFID will also work towards and support measures which will improve UN performance as set out in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Review.		<p>will encourage full implementation of its recommendations.</p> <p>DFID engaged on UNDP performance issues at the January-February 2013 Executive Board meeting. This resulted in a number of improved decisions, for example around evaluations and work in conflict-affected countries.</p>
		3. DFID will establish a stronger evidence base on the performance of DFID-funded UNDP election support, using UNDP's own monitoring and evaluation and an Annual Survey of DFID staff based on the ICAI survey of Governance Advisers on UNDP electoral assistance.	Annual Survey Nov. 2012	<p><b>Completed</b></p> <p>A survey on the performance of DFID-funded UNDP election support was completed in November 2012. This has provided more evidence on UN performance.</p> <p>DFID has also collected evidence of performance from a recent Independent Evaluation of UNDP electoral</p>

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				<p>assistance and will continue to collect such evidence in future.</p> <p>The evidence base on the performance of DFID-funded UNDP election support will be made available to all DFID and FCO staff through a new online information platform in the first half of 2013.</p>
		<p>4. Closer engagement by DFID at Executive Board and working level, with UK Mission in NY, on follow-up to UN-led review processes, to support reform and performance improvement.</p>	<p>From July 2012.</p>	<p><b>On track</b> DFID has stayed in close contact with the Executive Board, UK Mission in New York, individual UN offices and on specific processes.</p> <p>DFID recently visited UNDP and UN-EAD in New York to discuss performance on electoral assistance. This fed into an on-going performance review of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and enabled improvements in</p>

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				interaction on priority countries.  DFID will cease reporting on this action after September 2013. UK engagement will then be reflected through the MAR process.
<b>Recommendation 2.2:</b> [DFID] should encourage the UN to resolve differences in approach to elections between UN agencies.	Accept	5. DFID will work with UNDP to identify UNDP's comparative advantage on elections and democratic governance in the new UNDP Strategic Plan (2014 to 2017). (Executive Boards and Strategic Plan discussions).	June, Sept '12, Feb, June and Sept '13	<b>On track</b> DFID engaged in two workshops and informal sessions at the Executive Board in preparation for drafting of the Strategic Plan. UNDP's recent "strategic directions" paper (not yet publicly available) defined UNDP's comparative advantage at a general level. Major donors have responded to this with a joint letter setting out views and expectations and await the first draft of the Strategic Plan and a follow-up workshop in mid-March.

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		6. DFID will engage with the follow-up to the review of integrated election assistance.	September Executive Board	<b>Off track</b> The review has just been shared (20-2-2013) by UNDP and is not yet public. DFID has reviewed the report and drafted a response, including action points, ready for a formal response through UN systems.
		7. Annual Review of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) programme in 2013.	June 2013.	<b>On track:</b> DFID's Annual Review of the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) programme is on-going with completion anticipated by end March 2013.
<b>Recommendation 3.1:</b> DFID should place greater emphasis on ensuring value for money in electoral assistance. This means encouraging more realistic budget processes and advocating appropriate	Accept	8. DFID will work with UNDP to develop a new methodology for assessing value for money in electoral assistance, taking into account electoral systems, technologies, delivery context, and the need for greater budget and resource transparency.	Completed May 2013	<b>On track:</b> DFID, with UNDP (and other service providers) is developing a new methodology for, and guidance on, assessing value for money in electoral assistance.

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electoral systems and technologies				
<b>Recommendation 3.2:</b> DFID also needs to improve its identification of the costs of different aspects of electoral systems in difference countries, to enable better cost control.	Accept	9. DFID will commission new analysis, data and guidance on comparative electoral costs in consultation UNDP and other providers.	Completed May 2013	<b>On track:</b> DFID, with UNDP (and other service providers) has started the analytical work required to provide new data and guidance on costs in electoral assistance. This will be produced jointly with the new guidance on value for money.
<b>Recommendation 4.1:</b> DFID should strengthen governance arrangements over UNDP-managed programmes. This includes (i) separating political dialogue from technical oversight and (ii) making more use of third-party monitoring that will act to challenge and hold UNDP better to account for performance.	Accept	10. New DFID-FCO guidance will be prepared on options for programme governance arrangements, based on best practice lessons, and to be adapted to local requirements.	Oct. 2012	<b>Completed</b> We have provided DFID staff with guidance on options for programme governance arrangements (by email; September 2012).  This will also be made available to all DFID and FCO staff through a new online information platform in the first half of 2013. Such information will be updated in future through this platform.

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		11. The joint How To Note on electoral assistance will be amended to reflect the value of sourcing additional resources to monitor and advise staff during election operations. Where feasible, this could be done through EU coordination processes.	Jan. 2013	<p><b>Completed</b> We provided DFID's county office advisers with guidance on sourcing additional resources to monitor election operations in December 2012 embedded in our guidance on programme governance arrangements.</p> <p>This guidance will be made available to all DFID and FCO staff through a new online information platform in the first half of 2013. Such information will be updated in future through this platform.</p>
<b>Recommendation 4.2:</b> Risk management arrangements to cover these issues should be fully integrated into the design of assistance through UNDP.	Accept	12. DFID will work with UNDP to adopt a common approach to risk management (assessment, mitigation, reporting). This will be tested in at least 3 DFID-funded UNDP elections programmes.	Piloting from Jan. 2013	<p><b>On track</b> DFID provided country office advisers with new guidance on comprehensive risk management in December 2012. Guidance was developed in consultation with UNDP and will be used by</p>

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				<p>DFID when working on UNDP programmes. Use of the guidance will be monitored during 2013 for all DFID election assistance (not restricted to 3 DFID-funded UNDP elections programmes)</p> <p>The guidance will also be made available to DFID and FCO staff through a new online information platform in the first half of 2013.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4.3:</b> Where possible, programmes and basket fund arrangements should be maintained through the electoral cycle.</p>	Accept	<p>13. New, internal online portal launched for DFID staff with resources (analysis, tools, data sets) covering all aspects of the electoral cycle and broader democratic governance. New work detailed here (on suppliers, vfm, costs, risk) to be housed on new portal.</p>	<p>January 2013 - Revised to May 2013</p>	<p><b>Off track</b> DFID is currently developing and piloting a new system for online information platforms. This will not be operational until April 2013. Once operational, DFID will launch an election assistance component. The information required for this component has been prepared.</p> <p>We are working towards a</p>



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				revised target date for this action of end May 2013.
<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b> DFID should ensure that each example of electoral support is anchored in a strategy for democratic development. This should include how the elections assistance relates to governance objectives beyond the timeframe of a specific election. It should also include active engagement with a wider range of national stakeholders and political institutions.</p>	Accept	<p>14. Joint How To Note on electoral support to be updated to reflect issues that should be specifically addressed in business cases and approval submissions. These include wider democratic objectives to which the support will contribute, and links to the strategic objectives for DFID's Operational Plan in each country.</p>	Nov. 2012	<p><b>Completed</b> An updated Joint How To Note on electoral support was circulated in November 2012. Combined with updated DFID Business Case guidance, advisers have clear guidance on reflecting wider sectoral and country objectives.</p>