

Progress Update: Joint DFID, FCO and MOD Management Response to the Independent Commission for Aid Impact recommendations on:

Evaluation of the Inter-Departmental Conflict Pool, July 2012

ICAI Recommendation	Accept/Partially Accept/Reject	Original Management Response		March 2013 Update
		Action	Target Date	
<p>Recommendation 1: The Building Stability Overseas Board should develop a clearer strategic framework specifically for the Conflict Pool, to clarify its comparative advantage alongside DFID (particularly in regional programming) and identify how it will integrate defence, diplomacy and development into a multidisciplinary approach to conflict prevention.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>1. The Conflict Pool Secretariat will develop a Conflict Pool Strategy for the BSOB's approval by the end of 2012.</p>	<p>December 2012</p>	<p>Off track. Strategy drafted and is under consideration by the Building Stability Overseas Board. Publication is expected in March 2013.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 2: By the next Conflict Resources Settlement (starting in 2015-16), the three departments should simplify the management structure for the implementation of Conflict Pool activities, while retaining a tri-departmental approach to strategy setting and funding allocation.</p>	Accept	<p>2. In the context of preparing for the next Spending Review, we will consider what other management arrangements and structures would be appropriate and optimal for the Conflict Pool.</p>	Subject to timing of next Spending Review	<p>On track. HM Treasury have confirmed that a mini-Spending Review covering FY 15/16 only will take place in the first half of 2013.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: At the next spending review, the three departments should work with the Treasury to reduce volatility in the Conflict Pool budget.</p>	Accept	<p>3. In the context of preparing for the next Spending Review, we will consider what further measures could be appropriate to reduce volatility in the conflict resources settlement.</p>	Subject to timing of next Spending Review	<p>On track. Improved Peacekeeping Budget forecasting and forward purchasing of foreign currency have already significantly reduced volatility in the conflict resources settlement.</p> <p>The establishment in April 2012 of a £20 million Early Action Facility provided a more agile financial tool which</p>

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				helped to manage volatility within the Conflict Pool
<p>Recommendation 4: To maximise its impact, the Conflict Pool should match its funding model to its specific objectives, balancing a proactive approach to identifying partners for larger-scale activities with a flexible and responsive grant-making process for promising local initiatives and paying more attention to leveraging other resources to take pilot activities to scale.</p>	Accept	4. We will develop new programme guidelines to address this.	Autumn 2013	<p>On track. The forthcoming Conflict Pool Strategy includes guidance in this area. Revisions to the Pool's general guidance in the coming months will supplement this.</p> <p>Conflict Pool programmes, notably Pakistan, have already begun to develop more balanced project portfolios in response to ICAI's recommendation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: The Conflict Pool should adopt guidelines on risk management and conflict sensitivity.</p>	Accept	5. The guidelines referred to in action 4 will address this.	Autumn 2013.	<p>On track. The forthcoming Conflict Pool Strategy addresses risk management and conflict sensitivity.</p> <p>More detailed advice on</p>

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				<p>conflict sensitivity will be incorporated into the Conflict Pool's guidance, drawing on OECD DAC and other materials. A learning and development module on conflict sensitive programme management was piloted in December 2012 and will be developed further in spring/summer 2013.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: The Conflict Pool should develop a balanced monitoring and evaluation system which encompasses both strategic resource management and real-time assessment of the outcomes of specific projects.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>6. We will issue improved guidance on monitoring and evaluation for the Conflict Pool.</p>	<p>March 2013.</p>	<p>On track. Draft guidance is under preparation and is on track to be published by the end of March 2013.</p>