

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

DFID's Oversight of the EU's Aid to Low-Income Countries, December 2012

| ICAI Recommendation | Accept/Partially Accept/Reject | Original Management Response | | March 2013 Update |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---------------|--|
| | | Action | Target Date | |
| <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>DFID should set out clearly what action is needed and how long it will take to deliver the same level of assurance on its contributions to the EU as it achieves elsewhere. This should include improvements to the performance management of EU aid and better access to EU information</p> | Partially Accept | <p>1. We will update our Multilateral Aid Review on the European Development Fund and European Commission Budget instruments which will reassess their value for money and compare performance against other multilateral organisations, including the World Bank.</p> | November 2013 | <p>On track</p> <p>We have started the process of updating the Multilateral Aid Review on the European Development Fund and European Commission Budget instruments. It will be completed in November 2013</p> |
| | | <p>2. Request a clear timetable for implementation of an improved EU results framework from EuropeAid.</p> | March 2013 | <p>Complete</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 2 :</p> <p>DFID should give better guidance to DFID country offices on how they should contribute to EU country strategies and to existing coordination forums, so as</p> | Accept | <p>3. Roll-out Europe Department communications strategy across DFID.</p> | May 2013 | <p>On track</p> <p>A communications strategy is being prepared and will be rolled out by end April 2013. Seminars have already been organised on EU external representation (Jan), working</p> |

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| to ensure a better combined impact from UK and EU funds and a greater focus on actual EU performance. | | | | in the EU (Mar) and EU influencing (Apr). A specific strand on DFID country office engagement with the EU is now being agreed. |
| | | 4. Review and have implemented guidance on engaging with the EU delegations where no DFID country office is present, including through embassies where possible. | December 2013 | On track We have reviewed Europe Department's approach to influencing the Commission's performance in countries without DFID presence. In order to maximise the impact of our limited resources, we intend to focus on policy engagement in Brussels and monitor the impact this has on performance in countries with no DFID presence through the FCO's regional desks. |
| Recommendation 3 : DFID should ensure that the EU secures on-going inputs from intended beneficiaries and effective | Accept | 5. Press for guidance to be issued to EU delegations on implementing the European Commission's communication on civil society organisations in country. | December 2013 | On track UKRep has raised this informally with officials working for the Commission. |

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| intelligence on what is needed on the ground, in order to inform and challenge dialogue with recipient governments. | | | | |
| <p>Recommendation 4 :</p> <p>DFID should engage more actively on developing and driving through the EU's planned improvement of its risk management processes, given the potential this has for improving the impact of EU aid.</p> | Accept | 6. Push for the revised Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and European Development Fund (EDF) regulations, being negotiated as part of the Multi-annual Financial Framework, to enable greater responsiveness in the programming cycle. | December 2013 | <p>On track</p> <p>For the DCI, Council negotiations on the Multi-annual Financial framework are well advanced. Reasonable balance being achieved between <u>flexibility</u> in instruments to respond to unforeseen circumstances and the need for sufficient levels of accountability. EDF negotiations are about to begin, and we will be pushing for similar outcomes. Report on progress will be given in the next update.</p> |