

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

DFID's Support for Civil Society Organisations through Programme Partnership Arrangements.

ICAI Recommendation	Accept/ Reject	Action already taken	Action to be taken	Target date
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>If DFID decides to continue with PPAs, or a similar grant-making instrument, it should use the intervening period to develop a more strategic, transparent and fair process for selecting CSOs and allocating funding. DFID should consider, both for this round and for any future rounds, extending the PPAs to more than three years to allow the strategic and innovative aspects of this unrestricted funding to develop.</p>	Accept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current PPAs have been extended by two years to 31 March 2016. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFID's adjusted PPA Evaluation strategy reflects the need to produce evidence on the optimum duration of PPA type grants and programme design characteristics to maximise the value of strategic funding. 	Nov 2013
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>DFID should ensure that both DFID and CSOs obtain full value from the partnership by assigning technical counterparts to each PPA.</p>	Reject	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do not agree that DFID needs to use resources to assign specific technical counterparts to each PPA. DFID has regular technical and policy dialogue with PPA agencies and has sought to maximise the value of PPAs through the PPA Learning Partnership and by engaging agencies extensively in discussions on emerging HMG/DFID policy priorities. 		

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<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>DFID should design the monitoring and evaluation system for PPAs so that it is less cumbersome and better suited to the long-term strategic nature of this funding.</p>	Accept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFID's PPA evaluation strategy is recognised as being highly innovative and for introducing a more rigorous and systematic approach to assessing and reporting results. We accept that elements of the approach have been cumbersome. Following discussion with PPA agencies, we are now addressing this through the contract with Coffey International. • Having completed the PPA Mid Term evaluation, DFID has already initiated a review of lessons learnt from the mid-term evaluation and the first two years of programme implementation. 	<p>2. DFID will complete the review of the PPA evaluation strategy; adjust the approach to take account of lessons learnt as well as the experience of PPA agencies and the decision to extend the PPAs to March 2016. Updated guidance will be issued to PPA agencies.</p>	Jan 2014
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>DFID should strengthen the role of the Learning Groups, in order to ensure that lessons learned are shared more widely within DFID and with civil society partners.</p>	Accept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Learning Groups' activities at country level are increasing. The Southern Africa Learning Partnership is now active with strong links to DFID SA .The Burma visit by members of the Empowerment and Accountability group in May 2013 provides another opportunity to share learning and understand how the Learning Groups can add value to DFID's country operations. • Learning Groups continue to collaborate with other civil society learning platforms, including the Bond Effectiveness Programme. This is one way of ensuring lessons are shared beyond PPAs and DFID. 	<p>3. DFID will design and implement a PPA Learning Group communications strategy. This will include tools designed to track learning uptake by PPA agencies, DFID and more widely.</p>	July 2013