

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

**The Department for International Development's Support to the Health Sector in Zimbabwe, November 2011**

ICAI Recommendation	Accept/Partially Accept/Reject	Action specified in Management Response	Target date	September 2012 update
<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> As noted by the International Development Committee, DFID should support the Zimbabwe ministry of Health to strengthen its capability to manage the health system.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFID will work closely with other funding partners and with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW) to ensure the newly launched Health Transition Fund (HTF) strengthens the capability of the Ministry.</li> <li>DFID will consider with others the options for providing further technical assistance within HTF to strengthen the capability of the MOHCW.</li> </ol>	<p>2012 (progress reviewed annually in March).</p> <p>June 2012</p>	<p><b>On track</b> Monthly meetings of the steering committee for the Health Transition Fund (HTF) are taking place, co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary and a donor representative (DFID until last month). Two of the four HTF workplans focus on human resources for health, and on health policy planning, monitoring and evaluation. A list of all positions in the Ministry supported by donors has been finalised to help clarify how the HTF can best strengthen the Ministry.</p> <p><b>Complete</b> A HTF Coordinator has been appointed and taken up post. She sits in the Directorate of Policy and Planning,</p>

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				Monitoring & Evaluation in the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW). Further options for technical assistance are being considered by HTF donors.
<p><b>Recommendation 2:</b> DFID should plan to address the risk of falling value for money if funding is scaled up further. This should include identifying the major value for money risks and specifying how they will be managed and monitored.</p>	Accept	<p>3. DFID will produce a detailed Value for Money Strategy which will enable it to effectively prevent falling value for money in any of its projects.</p> <p>4. Value for money will include agreeing measures to mitigate the risks of corruption taking into account those to be agreed by DFID in response to the ICAI review of DFID's approach to Anti-corruption.</p>	<p>April 2012</p> <p>June 2012</p>	<p><b>Complete</b> A Value for Money strategy was approved in January 2012.</p> <p><b>On track</b> A comprehensive Anti-Corruption strategy has been drafted which should be published by December. An additional Governance adviser started in March &amp; spends 30% of his time working on health. This will serve to strengthen the Value for Money of DFID's programme.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3:</b> DFID should continue its effort to promote the removal of user fees for pregnant women and children under</p>	Accept	<p>5. DFID officials will seek ministerial approval for financial support to the Implementation of the Health Transition Fund (HTF).</p>	March 2012	<p><b>Complete</b> £50 million for the HTF over 4 years was approved in February.</p>

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five and ensure that this is a core objective in future support to maternal health.		6. DFID will work with partners during implementation of the Health Transition Fund to continue to press for the removal of user fees as soon as possible.	Ongoing	<p><b>On track</b> A consultant has been recruited by the HTF partners to design an Action Plan by December to deliver the removal of user fees</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4:</b> DFID should ensure more comprehensive reporting across the delivery chains, with clearer linking of funding to performance delivered.</p>	Accept	<p>7. DFID will continue to support efforts to monitor and track user fee charges through the vital Medicines and Health Survey (VMAHS) and will also monitor this through accountability initiatives currently being designed as part of DFID's Operational Plan for Zimbabwe.</p> <p>8. DFID Zimbabwe's new Value for money Strategy will ensure a more consistent and systematic approach to collecting data on our projects which will strengthen monitoring of results delivered against funding provided.</p>	<p>Quarterly VMAHS reporting</p> <p>April 2012</p>	<p><b>On track</b> DFID continues to fund the VMAHS which gives health facility trend data including on user fees. And we will spend £2 million to support an accountability initiative to help revitalise community health centre committees and support citizen engagement in health care delivery: a contract should be awarded by October.</p> <p><b>Complete</b> The recently approved Value for Money Strategy will ensure a more rigorous approach to VFM across the portfolio.</p>

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		9. The focus of the Annual Review and Project Completion templates on Value for money will help support this process.	January 2012 onwards	<b>Complete</b>
<p><b>Recommendation 5:</b></p> <p>DFID should take the lead in the donor community to agree a common definition of administrative costs and require implementing partners to report administrative costs on that basis.</p>	Accept	10. DFID Zimbabwe will work with other bilateral agencies in Zimbabwe to seek to agree a common definition of administration costs and identify a suitable mechanism for regular reporting.	June 2012 Revised to end March 2013	<p><b>Off track</b></p> <p>The deadline was missed. But we have begun a process with other agencies to gauge their commitment and build consensus about whether it is possible and if so how to arrive at a common definition.</p>