

**Evaluation Report Title: Evaluation of the Long-term Development Cooper
Between the UK and Vietnam**

Response to Evaluation Report (overarching narrative)

We are in agreement with the overall positive assessment about DFID Vietnam's performance. The reports have been comprehensive and thorough. They document well the breadth and depth of DFID support to Vietnam over the last 20 years. We also noted the caveats; short-comings; and the evaluators' cautious language in some of its conclusions, as this is a complex evaluation and a rare one of its type, and, therefore, there is a scope for further testing and improving the evaluation methodology.

We also noted that the Landell Mills synthesis report, while positive overall does not always draw out key findings from the subsidiary reports (the MDG Interim Report and the DFID Historical Overview). It is also somewhat contradictory in parts. This appears to be due to the different styles and areas of interest of the report's various authors and how purist they are in terms of evidence. On balance, this does not detract from the final document, rather it reflects the challenges of development and the attribution of results. It may also explain why some of the lessons and recommendations feel familiar (even perhaps generic) and could be applied elsewhere (as the reports notes).

We have shared the evaluation findings and lessons learnt broadly with the Government, development partners, think-tanks, civil society organisations; and with DFID internally.

Management Response & Recommendations Action Plan

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Recommendations	Accepted or Rejected	If “Accepted”, Action plan for Implementation or if “Rejected”, Reason for Rejection
<p>For donors remaining in country:</p> <p>the evaluators have five key lessons (the report notes the first four could be applied elsewhere, although arguably so could the fifth)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. aim for strategic consistency; 2. take consistent and focused approach over the long-term; 3. take a selective approach to programming 4. support the development capability and effectiveness of counterpart and partner systems (at a sub-national as well as national level) 5. better recognise the complexity of targeted poverty reduction. 	Accepted	<p>We have had several dissemination events with development partners (bilateral donors and multi-lateral agencies who remain in Vietnam). The final evaluation reports are available on DFID development tracker. For the main dissemination events we had the participation of the evaluation Team Leader to respond to donors’ questions.</p> <p>We also discussed with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and shared the documents with government agencies, particularly those who are in charge of drafting the new ODA strategic policy documents for Vietnam for 2016-2020.</p>
<p>For donors “exiting partner countries”/ending bilateral aid the lessons – two headline lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase-out gradually to avoid undermining the stability and predictability of aid levels. 	Accepted	<p>We have had several dissemination events with development partners (bilateral donors and multi-lateral agencies some of whom are planning to exit from Vietnam). The final evaluation reports are available on DFID development tracker. For the main dissemination events we had the participation of the evaluation Team Leader to respond to donors’ questions.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate early and regularly with development stakeholders, particularly with the partner government and other donors/development partners to allow advance planning. <p>Although not articulated as a firm recommendation, the report also points to the need for donors to consider the collective effect of multiple phase-outs.</p>		<p>The dissemination events for donors covered a session on lessons learnt for exiting donors and for all donors on graduation from a country. We also had follow-up sessions with them individually to share DFID lessons and approach including on graduation.</p>
<p>For the Government of Vietnam: [these could be applied elsewhere]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a clear plan to improve systems and be willing to learn and pilot new systems based on international best practice. • Harmonise and promote coherence between government agencies. And between central and local levels. <p>And two specific to Vietnam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthen the capacity of sub-national government. • provide effective additional support to those provinces most in need and, in particular, ethnic groups with the lowest levels of development achievements. 	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>We have worked closely with the Government on this evaluation including during the dissemination phase. The Government has used the lessons and recommendations from the evaluation in their discussions on further cooperation for the period 2016-2020 with bilateral and multilateral donors. They also use the recommendations to improve their new ODA Strategic Framework and ODA related legal and policy documents.</p>

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