

DFID India's Management Response to: Evaluation of the Technical Assistance Component of DFID India's Education Portfolio, 2016

Study recommendation (note that these recommendations are relevant across DFID's education portfolio and that DFID funding to education in India ended in 2016/17)	Accept/partially accept/reject	Action already taken	Action to be taken	Target date
1 Project design should be driven by the overriding objective of enhancing learning achievement [including improved pedagogy, specific logframe metrics and indicators, and sharing experience across programmes]	Accept	Already included in majority of programme designs; HoP and Policy Division Team sharing experience	N/A	N/A
2 A guidance (How To) note on the Theory of Change (ToC) should be developed and issued, with the aim of developing more nuanced thinking about the Theory of Change. There should be a more systematic application of the ToC tool.	Accept	ToC tools including How To note exist and are continuously improved; ToC promoted as essential for design, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation	N/A	N/A
3 DFID Education advisers charged with managing complex TA programme should be experienced and credible practitioners, able to demonstrate technical competence and soft skills.	Accept	Already a priority	N/A	N/A
4 A functional review (of the education cadre) should be conducted, to ensure that advice of the right quality is provided.	Partially accept	Cadre makeup is under Head of Profession's oversight and reviewed regularly as per DFID needs		
5 Systems for monitoring and evaluation, consistent with both the characteristics of TA and a shifting focus towards learning achievement, should be strengthened.	Accept	Already included in programme designs; Policy Division Team sharing experience	N/A	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a global strategy for selecting ex-post evaluations of TA - Build in contractual conditions requiring TA agencies to demonstrate proof of concept for projects that will be replicated or scaled up. - Commission a tailor-made course on monitoring & evaluation for DFID advisers, linked to new DFID operating metrics and guidance on TA. 	Under consideration	<p>Included in TA contracts where appropriate</p> <p>Available through DFID's Evaluation Dept and evaluation cadre advisers</p>	N/A	N/A
<p>6 The global education research strategy should include investigation into the conditions for optimising VfM</p>	Accept	Underway	N/A	2017