

TIMOR-LESTE DISABILITY SPECIFIC PARTNERS AND PROGRAM REVIEW

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE - DECEMBER 2019

Summary of management response

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) broadly agrees with the findings of the review. Overall, the review found that the activities supported by the Australia Timor-Leste Partnership for Human Development (PHD) have contributed to progress in the key areas of awareness raising and improving knowledge about the rights of people with disabilities. There was also evidence of effective inclusive practice supporting positive change at a local level for individuals with disabilities and their families.

The review also made 15 recommendations to improve the implementation of current activities and to inform future decision-making. In collaboration with PHD, DFAT has put in place a number of actions in order to implement the recommendations. These actions are set out in the response to the recommendations below.

The Government of Australia (GoA) remains committed to disability inclusive investment in Timor-Leste, as set out in the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper and DFAT's Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program. The Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) is also supportive, as set out in the Program of the Eighth Constitutional Government and as indicated by the development of their new Disability National Action Plan 2020-2024. In the medium-term, the exact nature of Australia's support for disability inclusive development in Timor-Leste will be guided by the new international development policy currently being prepared by the Australian Government, as well as Australia's new Aid Investment Plan (AIP) for Timor-Leste, which is also under development.

Input on disability inclusion in the AIP for Timor-Leste will be guided in part by the additional work that is being undertaken by PHD to capture outcomes and lessons learned from current activities (the *PHD Disability Inclusion Review*). This responds directly to recommendations 8 and 14 of this review – and will also allow information to be captured on PHD's disability mainstreaming activities. These activities were not covered by the recently completed review due to time and budget constraints.

Individual management response to the recommendations

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action plan	Timeframe
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The GoA should continue in the long term to prioritise and as is feasible maintain the current level of investment in disability inclusive development in Timor-Leste through its bilateral investments, and through the support it provides through other channels to international and local NGOs, DPOs and to UN programs.</p>	Agree	<p>DFAT's Development for All Strategy outlines Australia's policy commitment to disability inclusive development across all development programs.</p> <p>DFAT will continue to integrate disability inclusion into all our development programs.</p> <p>We will refocus our approach under PHD on mainstreaming disability inclusion into our broader investments, but recognise that some disability specific investment may be required to achieve this (e.g. support for Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) and disability service providers).</p>	The new AIP for Timor-Leste will consider Australia's prioritisation of investment in disability inclusive development.	New AIP to be developed by mid-2020.
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>The GoA should use its influence as a recognised leader in disability and development to try to influence other bilateral and multilateral development partners to include commitments to disability in their program investments.</p>	Agree	Where possible DFAT encourages other development partners to include commitments to disability in their program investments and encourages learning and collaboration to maximise collective impact.	<p>DFAT will maintain its public and private advocacy on disability inclusion with development partners.</p> <p>DFAT is also working with key DPOs to strengthen their ability to</p>	Ongoing.

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			advocate with bilateral and multilateral development partners	
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>The current local partners ADTL, RHTO and PRADET that all have contracts with PHD should continue to be funded until the end of the 2020 DID Fund as long as they continue to meet their contractual requirements.</p>	Agree	DFAT agrees that ADTL, RHTO and PRADET should continue to be funded until the end of the DID Fund in June 2020, through PHD, subject to meeting contractual requirements.	ADTL, RHTO and PRADET have signed new agreements with PHD until June 2020.	Agreements finalised by July 2019 for the 2019-2020 financial year.
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>Decisions about direct funding of Agape in the short-term should be based on a more thorough assessment of the organisation's commitment to disability rights and the principles of disability inclusive practice, and consideration of other organisations that offer sign language education for deaf people and people who are hard of hearing.</p>	Agree	Based on previous assessments, DFAT has not provided funding to Agape since 2018. This review confirms some of the issues raised in previous assessments.	No further action required.	Completed.

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<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>Prior to June 2020, DFAT should commission a mapping and capacity needs assessment of all DPOs and disability service providers in Timor-Leste, to help in the design of future funding mechanisms to support disability partners and help determine allocation of resources based on the needs, priorities and likelihood of contribution to impact.</p>	Agree in part	<p>The broader <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i> will be used to identify future funding priorities for inclusion in the new AIP.</p> <p>Larger mapping and capacity needs assessment is not required at this stage, but PHD will support ADTL understand the capacity needs of its members better on a year-to-year basis.</p>	<p>Review underway.</p> <p>PHD provided ADTL support to undertake a survey of its members at the Annual General Meeting in October 2019. Data from this will be used to develop capacity building priorities and plans.</p>	<p>Draft review report due December 2020. Final review report due February 2020.</p> <p>Support to ADTL ongoing in 2020.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>DFAT should support RHTO and ADTL in the longer term because of their mandate and their national reach across the disability sector, but this decision should be based on a thorough assessment of achievements and progress made during the current funding contract period that ends in June 2020.</p>	Agree	<p>DFAT agrees with the idea of supporting RHTO and ADTL beyond June 2020, as ADTL is the acknowledged peak organisation for DPOs in Timor-Leste and RHTO is the largest DPO in Timor-Leste with a national presence. The exact nature and quantum of the support will be determined based on available funding and the findings of the <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i> – which will include an assessment of achievements by RHTO and ADTL with funding through PHD.</p>	<p>Review underway to capture achievements and progress.</p> <p>DFAT, through PHD, is also working with RHTO and ADTL to strengthen their core capacities in order to position themselves as fee for service providers, in order to diversify their funding sources and increase their sustainability.</p> <p>DFAT is also well placed to use its convening power to bring together other donors and GoTL to facilitate policy dialogue, which could assist in identifying additional sources of disability inclusive funding, including embedding disability into</p>	<p>Draft review report due December 2020. Final review report due January 2020.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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			GoTL budgetary mechanisms. DFAT and PHD will use stories of success from the <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i> to advocate for other funding sources.	
<p>Recommendation 7</p> <p>If funding of partners is not to be continued beyond June 2020, PHD / DFAT needs to inform the partners well in advance (ideally not less than 6 months) of the end of the contract, to enable partners to have sufficient time to manage any implications.</p>	Agree	<p>DFAT agrees that if funding is not to be continued beyond June 2020, partners need to have sufficient time to manage any implications.</p> <p>As indicated above, DFAT is also supporting DPOs to become more sustainable.</p>	<p>DFAT and PHD have informed PRADET, by letter and in a meeting, that due to budget restrictions DFAT will be unable to continue funding PRADET through PHD beyond June 2020.</p> <p>PHD will invest in supporting DPOs to ensure a smooth transition if further funding is reduced or ceased.</p> <p>Decisions on future support for ADTL and RHTO will be made based on the available budget and the findings of the <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i>.</p>	<p>PRADET informed July 2019.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Decision on future support for ADTL and RHTO to be made by DFAT and PHD in early 2020.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 8</p> <p>PHD with CBM's advice should strengthen strategic and outcome level monitoring and establish reflection and learning processes with the disability partners and other key stakeholder groups.</p>	Agree	DFAT agrees that this is an issue and has raised with PHD the need for outcome data and performance monitoring of disability inclusive investments.	<p>The <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i> will specifically look at outcomes achieved since 2016.</p> <p>PHD is also working with CBM and M&E House to strengthen their monitoring and evaluation systems around disability inclusion.</p>	<p>Final review report due January 2020.</p> <p>Improvements to PHD M&E system developed by March 2020, with continuous improvement updates.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9</p> <p>DFAT with PHD using the expertise of the CBM managed 'DID4all' facility, should as a priority follow up on the recommendations made in the 2018 management review of the independent end evaluation of the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL), Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) course (2012-2017), and use this the information gained to make a decision on DFAT's funding of CBR in Timor-Leste in the short and longer term (beyond 2020).</p>	Agree	Based on the findings of this review, the independent evaluation of the UNTL CBR course and CBM's analysis, DFAT will not support the course beyond June 2020.	<p>No further funding to be provided to the UNTL CBR course through PHD beyond June 2020.</p> <p>Consideration of the alternative options of supporting CBR, noting the recommendation is about funding of CBR in Timor-Leste in the short and longer term and not just the CBR course, will continue.</p>	<p>June 2020</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

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<p>Recommendation 10</p> <p>In the short and longer term, DFAT should ensure that appropriate technical and financial resources are allocated through the bilateral program to advocate and strengthen commitment and coordination within the GoTL on key disability specific and mainstream policy reform issues, which may include locating some of the engagement and support of policy reform within the bilateral investment, Governance for Development.</p>	Agree	DFAT will carefully consider how best to support the GoTL with disability specific activities and mainstreaming disability inclusive issues. This will be dependent on direction from Australia's new international development policy, and will be considered in the new AIP for Timor-Leste.	DFAT's Disability Inclusion Section will provide input on the new AIP. DFAT to decide on future support for GoTL on disability inclusion by May 2020.	May 2020
<p>Recommendation 11</p> <p>CBM with PHD, should explore options for locally based resources for both organisational and technical capacity strengthening in Timor-Leste and in Indonesia and the Pacific for the DPOs, which is more relevant, cost efficient and sustainable in the medium and longer term.</p>	Agree	As indicated in the review there are already links between DPOs and other organisations in Timor-Leste, Indonesia and the Pacific that could provide them with organisational and technical capacity support.	PHD to make recommendations for resourcing of disability inclusion support as part of the reorientation of the PHD disability work. This will be informed by the outcomes of the <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i> .	March 2020
<p>Recommendation 12</p> <p>PHD and DFAT should agree a process for stronger and more regular coordination meetings with CBM to assist strategic review and planning, and build this into CBM's annual plans and in-country inputs, noting this will require additional time resources be committed by DFAT.</p>	Disagree	CBM's involvement in PHD is managed directly by PHD. DFAT undertakes strategic review and planning with PHD, which is responsible for managing inputs from partners.	DFAT and PHD will continue to engage on strategic review and planning, including on disability inclusion in PHD. This will be informed by the outcomes of the <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i> .	Ongoing. Key discussions on disability inclusion in PHD in January and February 2020.

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<p>Recommendation 13</p> <p>PHD review the current responsibilities of the team responsible for disability to determine if additional capacity or change in management structure may help strengthen strategic management of the disability activities.</p>	Agree	PHD is currently undergoing a Functional Review to determine the most appropriate structure based on the PHD Delivery Strategy, which was revised in 2019. The PHD Delivery Strategy emphasises mainstreaming of disability inclusion across PHD programs, with some core support for DPOs to enable effective mainstreaming in line with the principle of 'nothing about us without us'.	Any further changes to the PHD structure to be based on the Functional Review of PHD, which aims to support the revised PHD Delivery Strategy.	Functional Review of PHD to be completed by December 2020.
<p>Recommendation 14</p> <p>PHD strengthen monitoring of the disability activities and introduce with CBM's input more regular reflection, learning process that includes partners, and produce documentation of the results and lessons learned from implementation of disability inclusive practice.</p>	Agree	PHD already conducts learning review and dialogues with disability inclusion partners, but this can be further improved.	<p>PHD, CBM and M&E House will work to improve PHD's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system around disability inclusion.</p> <p>In the short-term, the <i>PHD Disability Inclusion Review</i> will document the results and lessons learned since 2016.</p>	<p>New M&E system developed by March 2020.</p> <p>Review to be finalised by February 2020.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15</p> <p>DFAT explore possible options for different, options for technical support, and management and funding arrangements for some areas of the disability specific practice that may include working with locally based</p>	Agree	DFAT will consider its approach to disability specific support through the new AIP. The AIP will be guided by Australia's new international development policy. Based on this DFAT will	DFAT to consider approach to disability specific support over the medium term in the development of the new AIP.	New AIP to be developed by mid-2020.

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NGOs in Timor-Leste, and drawing on the expertise in the DFAT initiative Governance for Development to strengthen disability policy and program reform at the national level with GoTL.		consider the best available mechanisms to provide support.		