



## DFAT MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE AMPLIFY-INVEST-REACH PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM 2025

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
<p><b>Recommendation 1. Long-term commitment</b></p> <p>The AIR pilot demonstrated that working with Women's Funds is a highly effective way to support locally led approaches to gender equality, disability equity and social inclusion. However, more time is needed for the full value of the contribution of Women's Funds and their grantees to emerge, including how it complements other DFAT investments. It is therefore recommended that DFAT <b>continue the AIR partnership for at least two additional 4-year phases</b> (additional 8-years at a minimum).</p>	<b>Agree</b>	<p>DFAT agrees that working with Women's Funds is key to delivering on government commitments to locally led development, gender equality, disability equity and social inclusion.</p>	<p>DFAT will lead a design process for a 4 + 4 year investment in Women's Funds.</p>	2025-26
<p><b>Recommendation 2. Increased funding</b></p> <p>It is recommended that DFAT <b>increase funding to the AIR pilot</b> under future phases. This should include additional core and grant funding for Women's Funds to respond to growing unmet need. Increased budget for program management is needed to enhance program effectiveness beyond grant components, including a fully costed activity workplan and budget for coordination. Based on standard benchmarks, at least 5 per cent of the</p>	<b>Agree</b>	<p>DFAT agrees that additional funding is required to ensure the effectiveness of future phases.</p> <p>DFAT will consider increasing resources for program MEL and communications to demonstrate and communicate impact. Additional activity budget for non-grant activities will be considered.</p>	<p>As part of the design process DFAT will consider appropriate funding for Women's Funds, including for MEL, learning, communications and non-grant activities.</p>	2025-26

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budget should be allocated for MEL, and an additional 5 per cent for learning and communication.				
<b>Recommendation 3. Program redesign</b>  Future phases of AIR require an <b>updated program design</b> to address gaps and position the AIR partnership to deliver on its objectives. DFAT and the Funds should redesign the AIR partnership together, including revised theory of change and program logic, and a costed activity work plan. The updated design should include a robust MEL approach which includes impact assessment and learning.  DFAT and the Women's Funds should use the updated design to document AIR risk management innovations. These should be formally endorsed as part of the new design and shared within DFAT as a model for locally led program risk management.	Agree	DFAT agrees to update the design for future phases.	The design process will include an updated theory of change, program logic, costed activity work plan, and include appropriately resourced MEL, communications and risk management.	2025-26
<b>Recommendation 4. Program management</b>  Under the next phases of the AIR partnership, it is recommended that DFAT and the Women's Funds consider standing up a <b>program support unit</b> which would be accountable to DFAT and Women's Funds. The support unit would lead partner coordination, MEL, communications and logistics – enabling DFAT and the Funds to focus on strategic activities to maximise the AIR partnership's impact.	Partially agree	While DFAT agrees that additional resourcing is needed to support Phase 2 operations, MEL and communications, the mechanism for providing this support needs to be determined with Women's Funds. During the design of future phases, DFAT and the Women's Funds will co-design the most appropriate program management mechanism for the AIR partnership.	During the design process for future phases, DFAT and Women's Funds will agree on the approach to the program support unit, and define the critical elements of the partnership model.	2025-26

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Additionally, DFAT and Women's Funds should define the critical elements of the partnership model and reflect them in management arrangements. Critical elements could include shared decision-making, a direct relationship and respect for individual partner objectives). This will be particularly important if other DFAT areas co-fund Women's Funds under future phases of AIR, extending DFAT's relationship with Women's Funds beyond GEB.				
<b>Recommendation 5. AIR lessons</b>  The AIR partnership provides considerable opportunity for collaboration with, and learning for, other DFAT programs. It is recommended that DFAT <b>develop a communication strategy</b> , which outlines the relevance and value of the program and the opportunities for collaboration between Women's Funds and other relevant DFAT areas.	Agree	DFAT agrees that communication about the partnership needs to be improved. During the remainder of the investment, DFAT is continuing to seek opportunities to share learning about success with other DFAT areas and external stakeholders.	A communications strategy will be developed under future phases of the AIR partnership.	2026-2030