Australian Government



Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

2013 Meta-evaluation Report Management Response

Recommendations to ANCP NGOs

RECOMMENDATION		DFAT RESPONSE
1.	Ensure explicit attention in ANCP evaluation reporting to cross-cutting issues, including gender equality and disability.	Agree. DFAT will explicitly tell ANCP NGOs that they need to incorporate gender equality and disability in their design, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and annual performance reporting. DFAT will support ANCP NGOs by sharing lessons learned and best practice in monitoring and evaluation through the ANCP Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Reference Group.
2.	Require and demonstrate more explicit consideration of efficiency, inclusive of value for money, throughout the full project cycle.	Agree. DFAT to provide a definition of, and guidance around, value-for-money to NGOs following the Department's review.
3.	Ensure adequate evaluation expertise throughout ANCP evaluation processes.	Agree. DFAT to reiterate its monitoring and evaluation standards to the NGO sector. This will be assisted by sharing lessons learned and through the ANCP MEL Reference Group.
4.	Clarify processes and definitions, and provide clear direction for the capturing and documenting of lessons learned from project level evaluations.	Agree. DFAT will support ANCP NGOs by sharing lessons learned and best practice in monitoring and evaluation through the ANCP Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Reference Group.
5.	Demonstrate stronger attention to M&E structures and frameworks for measuring across the full project cycle, including baseline data, a theory of change and intended outcomes against which to report.	Agree. DFAT will support ANCP NGOs by sharing lessons learned and best practice in monitoring and evaluation through the ANCP Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Reference Group.

6.	Improve the quality of terms of reference (ToRs) and planning for the evaluation of ANCP activities including through familiarity with and reference to Standards for Monitoring and Evaluation.	Agree. DFAT will support ANCP NGOs by sharing lessons learned and best practice in monitoring and evaluation through the ANCP Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Reference Group.
7.	Ensure adequate assessment and ongoing monitoring of partners' technical capabilities.	Agree. DFAT will support ANCP NGOs by sharing lessons learned and best practice in monitoring and evaluation through the ANCP Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Reference Group.

Recommendations to DFAT

RECOMMENDATION		DFAT RESPONSE
1.	Provide clarity and guidance to ANCP NGOs on expectations and or frameworks for considering value for money (VfM).	Agree. Definition and guidance on value-for-money will be provided to all external partners, including NGOs, once the Department's review is finalised.
2.	Review average expenditure on evaluation activities for ANCP, and if indicated, provide further guidance to ANCP NGOs on the use of up to ten per cent ANCP funding allocation for evaluation activities.	Agree. Annual reviews of ANCP evaluation expenditure will be conducted by the Department through analysis of data received through ANCP Online. Opportunities for sharing lessons and learning evaluation good practice will be supported as part of the Department's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) commitments and through the MEL Reference Group. Guidance to ANCP NGOs on appropriate expenditure on evaluation activities will be provided as required.