

ANCP Data Systems Validation Review - Management Actions: October 2018

	Recommendation	Management response	Actions
1	<p>DFAT, in consultation with ANCP NGOs, to review the ANCP Program Logic and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF), specifically to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> increase the emphasis on qualitative outcome indicators that demonstrate instances of significant change, reduce the total number of indicators, improve reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and provide more detailed guidance on indicators, where appropriate, whilst maintaining ANCP's focus on flexibility and working within partner systems. 	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT to commission review of ANCP program logic, MELF and subsequent systems. This review will address all parts of this recommendation and be undertaken in consultation with ANCP NGOs.
2	<p>DFAT to further facilitate the ANCP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Reference Group, ensuring that it is convened on a regular basis. The objective of this is to get agreement on proposed changes, generate good practices of M&E to be shared across partners, and provide a learning forum for feedback on monitoring, evaluation and reporting.</p>	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT to schedule meeting for late November 2018 to discuss the program logic and MELF review, which will address recommendations 1 a, b, c and d through ongoing engagement with the Reference Group throughout 2018-19. In preparation, MEL Reference Group Terms of Reference to be updated.
3	<p>DFAT, in collaboration with the ANCP MEL Reference group, to revise the disaggregation of data. This could include clearer definitions for disability, and reviewing the need for disaggregation of urban/rural.</p>	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT will work with the MEL Reference Group and DFAT gender, disability and other sections to discuss the appropriate disaggregation of data. This will also form part of the next piece of work as part of the review of the Program Logic and MELF.
4	<p>ANGOs to allocate, as appropriate to their situation, more ANCP funding (up to 10%) to M&E to improve the quality of data coming from local partners. DFAT may consider encouraging ANGOs to allocate, at a minimum, 4% of ANCP funding to M&E, to ensure that partners are sufficiently investing in these areas, including Management Information System (MIS).</p>	Partially agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT to update ANCP Manual to clarify the text around the 10% of Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DME) allowed under ANCP but will not require a minimum of ANCP funds to be spent on DME. The Manual will outline the expectation that proportionate funds be spent on M&E to assess the effectiveness of projects. DFAT to continue to encourage NGOs to undertake rigorous evaluations to provide a strong evidence base to demonstrate that ANCP is an effective use of funds for delivering on the Australian aid program.
5	<p>ANGOs to increase the quality assurance of data provided by their project partners. This could include building capacity of local partners; having increased resources available at country, regional or HQ level; and including data quality assurance/capacity assessments as part of the in-country monitoring missions.</p>	Agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFAT will discuss this with ANGOs at the MEL Reference group and seek ideas from ANGOs about how this recommendations can be implemented at an organisational level. Ideas may include sharing this report and findings with ACFID so that this can be addressed at the M&E Community of Practice where larger or more experienced NGOs can mentor and provide advice to other NGOs.