



Australian Government
AusAID

Quality at Entry Report and Next Steps to Complete Design for Samoa Civil Society Support Program

A: AidWorks details *completed by Activity Manager*

Initiative Name:	SAMOA CIVIL SOCIETY SUPPORT PROGRAMME		
AidWorks ID:	INJ402	Total Amount:	AUD500.00
Start Date:	1 July 2010	End Date:	30 June 2011

B: Appraisal Peer Review meeting details *completed by Activity Manager*

Initial ratings prepared by:	Beverly Turnbull
Meeting date:	12 March 2010
Chair:	Noumea Simi, Samoa Ministry of Finance
Peer reviewers providing formal comment & ratings:	– Noumea Simi, Ministry of Finance
Independent Appraiser:	– Beverly Turnbull, NZAID Governance Adviser
Other peer review participants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Thomas Opperer, EU In-country Manager – Ian Bignall, Counsellor AusAID – Azaria Lesa-Ah Kau, Initiative Manager – Roina Vavatau, SUNGO Manager – Raymond Voight, SUNGO representative – Peter Zwart, NZAID Manager – Nick Roberts, Adviser to the Ministry of Finance – Carissa Palliser, NZAID Activity Manager

C: Safeguards and Commitments *(new!) completed by Activity Manager*

Answer the following questions relevant to potential impacts of the activity.		
1. Environment	Have the environmental marker questions been answered and adequately addressed by the design document in line with legal requirements under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> ?	Yes
2. Child Protection	Does the design meet the requirements of AusAID's Child Protection Policy?	Yes

D: Initiative/Activity description *completed by Activity Manager (no more than 300 words per cell)*

3. Description	<p>The Government of Samoa has initiated a proposal to improve the coordination and synergies between donor-financed support programmes coordinated under the Ministry of Finance for small community projects and civil society/NGO capacity building. The main financing for these programmes comes from the following sources:</p> <p>*EU Micro-projects - NGO and community projects and training (approx 2m Tala per year)</p> <p>*AusAID - Small Grants Scheme (approx. 600,000 Tala per year)</p> <p>*NZAID - NGO Capacity Building and NGO Support Fund (1m Tala per year)</p> <p>There is also a separate GEF Small Grants scheme with an environmental focus.</p> <p>There is significant overlap between these programmes. Both the Australian Small Grants Scheme and the EU-finance Micro-projects programme provide funding to communities for small projects with broadly similar criteria. In the Government's view combining these two programmes taking the best practices from both will help to promote a more transparent and standardised approach to small community development grants, which other donors will also be encouraged to join or contribute to over time. In addition the Micro-projects programme is providing training to community-based organisations delivered through contracted NGOs to strengthen governance, planning and financial management and provides grants to national NGO programmes in support of community development. NZAID's support to NGOs also provides training on improved governance and management to NGOs through SUNGO, which is developing training expertise in this area.</p> <p>It has been suggested that a single training programme targeting both NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBO) promoting an agreed set of core values and basic management requirements, and delivered by a selected NGO would help to strengthen civil society in Samoa. Funding for NGO/CBO activities could be linked to achievement of agreed governance improvements/criteria under the NZAID core funding support. By combining these programmes the broader objective of promoting stronger civil society organisations, networks and development dialogue with government structures would be enhanced with the target group having a single point of contact.</p>
4. Objectives Summary	<p>The CSSP addresses needs identified by key stakeholders. It is supported by partner government; other key donors are still to confirm their financial support. The programme objectives are outcome-focused. They are consistent with the Joint Country Strategy 2006-2010 and Australia's objective of generating broadly spread and sustainable economic growth in the Pacific over the next ten years; and its desire to ensure that the poor are included in the benefits and opportunities provided by growth.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civil society organisations with strengthened capacity to govern and manage their organizations effectively on a sustainable basis to meet the needs of their members, to effectively manage funds, to manage sustainable development activities in cooperation with government or other agencies and to advocate responsibly for the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups 2. Tangible and sustainable social and economic benefits for communities in Samoa through the successful completion of nationally based projects through national NGOs or non profit civil society organizations and of community based projects through CBOs. <p>3. The development and operation of a funding facility successfully meeting the needs of civil society through the provision of an effectively managed single fund with common application, funding and reporting requirements able to assist civil society organizations to meet their needs and goals</p>

E: Quality Assessment and Rating (no more than 300 words per cell)

completed by Activity Manager after agreement at the Appraisal Peer Review meeting

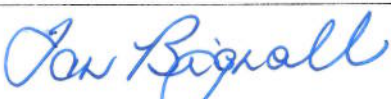
Criteria	Assessment	Rating (1-6) *	Required Action (if needed)
5. Analysis and Learning	The CSSP design process was preceded by context and stakeholder analysis, undertaken as part of a Prefeasibility Study. The CSSP design is appropriate to the context, and appears to offer value for money. The programme objectives are outcome-focused and the programme logic is clear. The design notes how cross-cutting issues such as gender and disability will be addressed. It is important that the CSSP monitors how well this is followed through; and collects disaggregated data on how vulnerable groups participate in and benefit from activities undertaken, or funded, through the CSSP	5	
6. Effectiveness	The implementation arrangements utilise partner government systems and partner government and other key donors have been involved in the feasibility and design processes. The CSSP is an opportunity for donors to demonstrate increasing harmonisation in their development assistance. The Risk Management Matrix covers a comprehensive list of identified risks and includes a risk management strategy for each; it is important that this Matrix is reviewed and up-dated at least annually to take account of any changes in the operating environment.	5	
7. Monitoring and Evaluation	The M&E section is rather brief, and it is not clear from this how lessons learned will inform the programme going forward. It is proposed that assessment of progress towards meeting the purpose and objectives of the CSSP be undertaken annually by an independent consultant or agency. There is little information on how progress will be assessed and against what indicators and milestones.	4	Suggestion that an M&E Advisor or consultant be asked to develop an M&E framework for the CSSP either before commencement or within the first 2-3 months of implementation
8. Sustainability	The CSSP is a response to Government of Samoa interest in a joint fund for civil society organisations, and was designed following considerable stakeholder consultation. There are limited sources of funding available to civil society groups in Samoa. The capacity building elements of the CSSP should assist civil society groups to more effectively utilise the funding which is available and to deliver better outcomes for those with whom they work. Donor funding is likely to be required for some time, but the CSSP processes and outcomes may give the Government of Samoa greater confidence in civil society groups, and this may increase the likelihood of government funding in the longer term.	5	

* Definitions of the Rating Scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)		Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)	
6	Very high quality; needs ongoing management & monitoring only	3	Less than adequate quality; needs to be improved in core areas
5	Good quality; needs minor work to improve in some areas	2	Poor quality; needs major work to improve
4	Adequate quality; needs some work to improve	1	Very poor quality; needs major overhaul

E: Next Steps <i>completed by Activity Manager after agreement at the Appraisal Peer Review meeting</i>		
Provide information on all steps required to finalise the design based on <i>Required Actions</i> in "C" above, and additional actions identified in the peer review meeting	Who is responsible	Date to be done
1. Finalise programme design document incorporating all comments by stakeholders	Azaria Lesa-Ah Kau	by the end of March 2010
2. Proceed to set up Steering Committee for the programme	Noumea Simi	by the end of May 2010

F: Other comments or issues <i>completed by Activity Manager after agreement at the APR meeting</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M & E to be set up within the first 3 initial months of operation

F: Approval <i>completed by ADG or Minister-Counsellor who chaired the peer review meeting</i>		
On the basis of the final agreed Quality Rating assessment (C) and Next Steps (D) above:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QAE REPORT IS APPROVED , and authorization given to proceed to:		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> FINALISE the design incorporating actions above, and proceed to implementation or: <input type="radio"/> REDESIGN and resubmit for appraisal peer review		
<input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED for the following reason(s): 		
Ian Bignall AusAID Counsellor APIA	signed: 	15 March 2010

When complete:

- Copy and paste the approved ratings, narrative assessment and required actions (if any) (table D) into AidWorks
- The original signed report must be placed on a registered file