

AusAID Management Response

REVIEW OF THE AUSAID NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) was introduced in May 2012. The MELF was developed by AusAID, in consultation with ACFID and NGOs, to ensure consistency in reporting, to summarise NGO achievements in poverty reduction and to provide evidence of the effective use of funds under the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). The MELF does not replace the more complex monitoring and evaluation systems of the ANCP NGOs or their in-country partners.

The review considered:

- the effectiveness of a sample of reports completed by NGOs under the new framework;
- an appraisal of the indicators against AusAID strategic goals and outcomes which NGOs were asked to report on; and
- written feedback from NGOs on the challenges they faced, their positive experiences and their suggestions for improvement.

The review found that the ANCP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework provides a level of consistency in reporting by NGOs that supports greater accountability and performance coverage than existed previously. The information provided by NGOs under the MELF was found to support AusAID reporting on outcomes.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSE

RECOMMENDATION	AUSAID RESPONSE
1. Streamline the information collected, including revising the list of indicators and removing repetition in the reporting templates.	Agreed. Information collected from NGOs has been streamlined, removing repetition from ANCP reporting templates. The streamlined reporting templates are being implemented for 2013-14 ADPlan reporting. A revision of the list of indicators is underway.
2. Build on the efficiencies of streamlined reporting through the rollout of an online grants management system.	Agreed. ANCP Online is being rolled out and will be fully implemented and available for 2013-14 ADPlan reporting.
3. Provide enhanced partnership reporting opportunities for ANCP Partner NGOs and engage Partners to suggest ways in which they can contribute more.	Agreed. AusAID has met with ANCP Partners to discuss how to move forward with reporting on shared objectives under the new ANCP Partnership MOU. Partner representatives are currently drafting terms of reference for a Partnership Reference Group.

<p>4. Undertake, as soon as possible, a meta-evaluation of NGO evaluations with a common country, sectoral or thematic focus, in order to share learning on development effectiveness.</p>	<p>Agreed. A meta-evaluation of NGO evaluations is scheduled for mid-2013.</p>
<p>5. Develop topics for future thematic reviews, based on information gathered through the MELF reporting process.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>6. Discuss further with the NGO sector the interpretation of the word 'advocacy'.</p>	<p>Agreed. Development Awareness Raising Guidelines have been updated and NGOs were consulted during the process.</p>