

**DFAT Management Response to the Independent Progress Review (Mid-Term Review) of the Partnerships for Improving Education (PIE) program.**

Recommendation	Management Response
<p>1. Program resourcing- Bring forward the Phase 2 budget allocation to the current phase, so that AUD75m is available for the remaining years of Phase 1.</p> <p><i>[Ref. discussion in Context, KRQ 1, KRQ 2, KRQ 3, KRQ 4 and KRQ 5]</i></p>	<p><b>Agree.</b></p>
<p>2. Strategic oversight and governance- Introduce a regular external strategic monitoring and advisory function.</p> <p><i>[Ref. discussion in Context, KRQ 1, KRQ 2, KRQ 3, KRQ 4 and KRQ 5]</i></p>	<p><b>Agree.</b> This gives effect to PIE’s design which envisages a technical advisory group function to provide external oversight and direction.</p>
<p>3. Program activity stock-take (and adjustment)- Undertake a program activity stock-take to decide on appropriate adjustments to program activities to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.</p> <p><i>[Ref. discussion in Context, KRQ 2, KRQ 3 and KRQ 4]</i></p>	<p><b>Agree.</b> PIE will undertake a program activity stock-take to inform changes to activity planning for the purposes of effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability.</p>
<p>4. Refine the MERLA framework- Draw on the PIE MES Review and experience to date to refine the MERLA strategy and framework.</p> <p><i>[Ref. discussion in KRQ 2, KRQ 3, KRQ 4 and KRQ 5]</i></p>	<p><b>Agree.</b> PIE’s MERLA framework will be strengthened to enhance relevance and meaningfulness, thereby accurately reflecting progress made to date. The framework will also be streamlined for the purposes of simplification and efficiency.</p>

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<p>5. Strengthen strategic communication- Increase the Program’s collateral and capacity for public diplomacy and policy influence.</p> <p><i>[Ref. discussion in KRQ 1, KRQ 4 and KRQ 5]</i></p>	<p><b>Agree.</b> PIE will review and update its current communication strategy to strengthen Learning and Adaptation functions that build on existing MEL products.</p>
<p>6. Adjust current provincial engagement- Review progress to date and prioritise next steps in each of the four provinces to account for local context and priorities, and progress and learning to date.</p> <p><i>[Ref. discussion in Context, KRQ 2, KRQ 3 and KRQ 4]</i></p>	<p><b>Agree.</b> PIE’s Annual Work Plan should reflect variations in programming in each of the sub-national locations in which it operates, and prioritise strategies in approach depending on the sub-national context.</p>
<p>7. Geographic expansion – PIE should not proceed to a 5th province in the short term. Rather expansion to other provinces should be driven by GoPNG, with PIE support, informed by a longer-term plan for expansion and consultation with other partners, including the World Bank.</p> <p><i>[Ref. discussion in KRQ 1, KRQ 4 and KRQ 5]</i></p>	<p><b>Agree.</b></p>