

SOLOMON ISLANDS SKILLS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM (S4EG)
Recommendations and Management Response

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE	EXPLANATION	ACTION PLAN
Recommendation 1 DFAT to extend the current phase for 12 months to allow time to assess the best model moving forward. This would allow for one more year of implementation to consolidate outcomes and obtain more clarity on APTC's work program and the corresponding SI budget before commencing on a design and tendering process in early 2020.	Partly Agree	DFAT will consider this recommendation in accordance with a number of factors, including Commonwealth procurement guidelines and value for money principles.	DFAT will consider extending the program by 12 months.
Recommendation 2 DFAT to consolidate support for SITESA but retain careful oversight of risks relating to institutionalisation of the authority. If SITESA fails to be gazetted or lack of institutionalisation transpires for other reasons DFAT should consider shifting the focus to regional accreditation for TVET courses.	Partly Agree	The decision on whether to establish SITESA is a matter for the Solomon Islands Government (SIG). DFAT and S4EG will support SIG to establish SITESA if it is a priority for SIG. As a temporary solution, SIG has had courses developed with the assistance of S4EG accredited by the Fiji Higher Education Authority. This may be an appropriate long-term alternative if SIG priorities change and SITESA is not established.	DFAT and S4EG will continue to provide support to SIG to establish SITESA while it is a SIG priority. If SIG priorities change, DFAT and S4EG will support SIG to investigate other options, including accreditation through the Fiji Higher Education Authority.
Recommendation 3 DFAT to support SIG to consolidate the training packages and institutional support at SINU and RTCs but retain oversight of the risks relating to governance at the institutions.	Agree	We believe this will be a role for SITESA when it is established.	DFAT and S4EG will continue to support training institutes to deliver the new courses while closely monitoring risks relating to governance at the institutions the program supports.
Recommendation 4 DFAT to consolidate and continue to support linkages between SINU/RTCs and industry and	Partly Agree	DFAT and S4EG will continue to support linkages between training institutes and industry, including through the bi-annual	DFAT and S4EG will continue to support linkages with training institutes and industry, and will also

SOLOMON ISLANDS SKILLS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM (S4EG)

Recommendations and Management Response

conduct further analysis of opportunities for industry to fund training. This would also include S4EG conducting further analysis on how to support governance and management issues at partner institutions.		Strategic Advisory Group meetings which bring together representatives from training institutes, industry and the Solomon Islands Government. DFAT will also work with training institutes to investigate opportunities for industry to fund training. The S4EG program has provided significant support to improve governance at training institutes, including through quality audits and improvement plans. This was noted in the evaluation report. If DFAT decides to design another stage of the program we will consider conducting further analysis on additional ways to support governance and management at partner institutions.	work with training institutes to investigate opportunities for industry to fund training. DFAT and S4EG will continue to support governance and management at training institutes, and may conduct further analysis around this if there is a second phase of the program.
Recommendation 5 S4EG to support partners to consider ways to stagger work placements with industry in order to provide continuity of labour supply for industry partners.	Disagree	DFAT and S4EG will discuss this recommendation with training institutes. However it would be difficult to stagger work placements given students need to complete pre-requisite units before beginning their work placements. Staggering work placements could significantly increase trainers' workloads.	DFAT and S4EG will discuss this recommendation with training institutes; however staggering work placements may be impractical.
Recommendation 6 S4EG to consider including content on food and nutrition (originally in the life-skills courses but was removed) back into the Vocational Pathways course. The program team to consider removing the WASH	Partly Agree	The skills packages are owned by SIG. However, the S4EG team will seek feedback on the courses from training providers and students as the new courses are implemented. S4EG will share feedback with SIG and, if requested, will provide assistance in modifying the courses.	S4EG will request feedback on the new courses from trainers and students and share that feedback with SIG. If requested by SIG, S4EG will modify the courses to ensure they are fit for purpose.

SOLOMON ISLANDS SKILLS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM (S4EG)

Recommendations and Management Response

modules as cross cutting content in all courses.			
Recommendation 7 The program team to consider approaches and methods to collect data on a longitudinal basis to provide an evidence-base of how the curriculum is being applied and how teachers and trainers are improving in capacity as a result.	Partly Agree	S4EG is in its final year of implementation. A 12-month extension is being considered, however a decision has not yet been made as to whether there will be a second phase of the program. S4EG will discuss the collection of longitudinal data with SIG. S4EG is working with SIG to collect data on student enrolments and completion rates at RTCs, through a Quality Management System that the program has developed. S4EG will also look at ways to better measure the impact of the program on trainer capacity.	S4EG will discuss collecting data on a longitudinal basis with SIG. The S4EG Monitoring and Evaluation officer will review and update the M and E framework.
Recommendation 8 Both DFAT and S4EG to consider overall resourcing requirements for the proposed extension phase with an emphasis on “localising support” in light of the high number of expatriate advisers on the program. S4EG to consider issues of empowerment and whether there are any opportunities to support local counterparts to implement their own ideas and solutions.	Party Agree	If DFAT decides to extend the current phase of the program the extension will need to be in scope of the original program; it will not be possible to make major changes to the program. However if there is a second phase of the program, DFAT will consider localising support and issues of local empowerment during the Design.	DFAT will consider this recommendation if we design a second phase of the program.
Recommendation 9 DFAT to consider supporting SIG to draw on the extensive needs analysis of skills demand in local provincial economies that have been conducted by WB, ADB and S4EG to develop	Party Agree	As above, DFAT will consider this recommendation if we decide to design a second phase of the program.	DFAT will consider this recommendation if we design a second phase of the program.

SOLOMON ISLANDS SKILLS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM (S4EG)

Recommendations and Management Response

courses aimed at meeting labour demand in local provincial economies.			
Recommendation 10 Both DFAT and S4EG to consider how scaling up can occur keeping in mind that TVET courses are expensive and local institutions may not be able to afford scaling up on their own. DFAT should encourage and provide secretariat support to SITESA to take on a leadership role in donor coordination and develop joint approaches and share lessons learned with stakeholders in the space.	Party Agree	As above, if DFAT decides to extend the current phase of the program the extension will need to be in scope of the original program; it will not be possible to make major changes. However DFAT will consider how scaling up can occur if we decide to design a second phase of the program.	DFAT will meet with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and offer to provide secretariat support for a TVET donor coordination group. If there is a second phase of the program, DFAT will consider how scaling up can occur.