

Independent Completion Review:

AusAID support for UNICEF Pacific Multi-Country Program 2008-2012

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Initiative Summary

Initiative Name			
AidWorks initiative number	INU 760		
Commencement date	2008	Completion date	2012
Total Australian \$	AUD \$11,495,000.00 (AUD \$9 million for Child Protection and AUD \$2.495 million for immunisation).		
Total other \$			
Delivery organisation(s)	UNICEF		
Implementing partner(s)	UNICEF Suva		
Country/Region	Pacific Regional		
Primary sector	Health and Child Protection		
Initiative objective/s	Continued improvements and results in immunisation and child protection		

Evaluation Summary

Evaluation Objective:

- i) evaluate the extent to which UNICEF has achieved its objectives for each program;
- ii) assess the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of UNICEF's regional programming and implementation approach, and
- iii) provide critical analysis and recommendations to AusAID in informing and shaping AusAID's engagement with UNICEF's Multi-Country Program in the Pacific.

Evaluation Completion Date:

- 14 Jan 2013

Evaluation Team:

- Stewart Tyson (Team Leader and Health Specialist with a focus on aid effectiveness),
- Salanieta Taka Saketa (Health Specialist)
- Colleen Peacock-Taylor (Child Protection Specialist).
- Kate Fraser (AusAID Evaluation Manager)
- Nilesch Goundar (AusAID UNICEF Program Manager)

AusAID's response to the evaluation report

- On the whole, AusAID agreed with the findings of the report. There were no major differences between AusAID experience and understanding of UNICEF effectiveness and efficiency and the findings identified in the report.
- AusAID provided feedback to the team on the first draft which has been incorporated into the final version. AusAID feedback centred on the need for the review team to demonstrate the level of resourcing being provided to countries and to assess whether UNICEF has been effective, as the initial draft did not explore in detail the link between UNICEF contribution to the collective effort and their own performance.
- AusAID accepted the overall findings of the final report.
- UNICEF provided factual corrections to the report which have been included in the final version. UNICEF comments were shared internally and with the review team. UNICEF took the opportunity of the review team leader's presence in Suva to discuss comments in person on 1 February 2013.
- Following this review, AusAID has taken the decision to provide funding support to UNICEF Suva for 2013 and 2014 in areas of health, child protection and policy and advocacy. Beyond this period, engagement with UNICEF Suva will be guided by the Regional Health Development Strategy and other relevant agency frameworks.

AusAID's response to the specific recommendations made to AusAID in the report

Recommendation	Response	Actions	Responsibility
1. The proposed support to the MCP over the next 12-18 months should consolidate the immunisation and CP programs with limited expectations of expansion.	<u>Partially Agree:</u> The transitional funding to UNICEF will support policy, advocacy, planning and evaluation to help address issues identified with current support to child protection and immunisation	Suva Post have finalised FMA 9-10 for this support which was signed by Minister Counsellor 10 December 2012.	Nilesh Goundar
2. Beyond that period, provide future support to the UNICEF MCP as un-earmarked support in line with AusAID's aid effectiveness agenda and partnership agreement with UNICEF.	<u>Partially Agree:</u> Options for engagement with Pacific Regional Health Organisations to be examined as part of Pacific Regional Health Development Strategy.	Pacific Regional Health Development Strategy currently under development which will help guide this decision	Andrew McNee
3. A future program should establish high-level results indicators for child protection and immunisation and for performance against aid effectiveness principles.	<u>Agree</u>	Indicators to be developed in consultation with UNICEF as part of the interim funding agreement development	Nilesh Goundar / Paulini Sesevu
4. Support for multi-country support should be largely focused on areas where there is regional added value, but allow flexibility in pursuing innovative approaches at country level. Significant support for in-country operations should be funded, where possible, through the AusAID bilateral program.	<u>Agree:</u> This recommendation is in line with the Regional Situation Analysis and the premise of the Regional Health Development Agenda.	To be examined as part of Pacific Regional Health Development Strategy.	Andrew McNee Suva and CBR health teams
5. Explore the use of thematic regional funds to improve coherence and cooperation in support of country owned health agendas models.	<u>Agree</u>	Use of thematic regional funds will be explored as part of the Pacific Regional Health Development Strategy analytical concept notes.	Ben Rolfe, Beth Slatyer
6. Consider institutional strengthening support for Ministries of Women, Children, Youth, Disability and Social Welfare.	<u>Partially Agree:</u>	Support is currently being provided via the UNICEF Child Protection Program and through the Australian Volunteers program and is subject to bilateral program priorities.	Suva and Pacific Posts Gender, Disability and Child Protection teams

UNCLASSIFIED

7. Strengthen links between AusAID bilateral programs and UNICEF across health and education initiatives relevant to child protection and gender.	Agree:	Use of regular AusAID internal communications between Suva Post and Pacific Posts	Nilesh Goundar
8. Consider support for introduction of new vaccines in PICTs through bilateral support or through an expanded Vaccine Independence Initiative. Consider support for introduction of new vaccines in PICTs through bilateral support or through an expanded Vaccine Independence Initiative	<u>Partially agree:</u> Examination of both support to VII and balance of support between bilateral and regional mechanisms will be explored as part of the Pacific Regional Health Development Strategy development process.	Background paper on procurement mechanisms (as part of the Pacific Regional Health Development Strategy) will be drafted.	Ben Rolfe, Beth Slatyer