

Evaluation of Australia’s Investment in Product Development Partnerships DFAT Management Responses

PDP–specific findings
<p>The evaluation concluded that, “For DFAT, TB and malaria focused PDPs continue to be a priority, with FIND, MMV and TB Alliance being sound investment decisions with the potential for continued impact through product introduction.”</p> <p>Management Response</p> <p>DFAT agrees that TB and malaria focused PDPs should be prioritized but will expand investment into vector control. Grant allocation for the next phase of funding will be through an open and competitive process to enable DFAT to review a range of options to achieve the expected outcomes from the PDP Fund design.</p>
Recommendation 1
<p>From the range of five options developed, Australia’s commitment to addressing health security issues in the Asia Pacific would be best addressed through a PDP investment which included a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1 - Maintain current investments continuing to focus on TB and malaria diagnostics and medicines, • Option 2 - Investment in vector control in addition to continuing to focus on TB and malaria diagnostics and medicines, and • Option 5 – Develop a cross cutting supplemental program with a focus on enabling access and uptake for PDPs. <p>Management Response</p> <p>Agreed. The Product Development Partnerships (PDPs) Fund, which is part of the government’s Health Security Initiative for the Indo-Pacific region, will provide support for PDPs with a focus on diagnostics and therapeutics for TB and malaria and/or vector control tools for malaria and other high-burden mosquito borne disease. However an open and competitive process to select the best PDP will be undertaken.</p> <p>A regulatory strengthening program to fast-track product registration is currently under design, in partnership between DFAT and the Therapeutic Goods Administration, to complement the PDP Fund. We will explore other opportunities under the Health Security Initiative to improve the accessibility and affordability of drugs, diagnostics and other relevant products.</p>
Recommendation 2
<p>For any future investment in PDPs, DFAT should ensure a strong M&E framework is developed. This should include clearly defined outputs and outcomes, mutually agreed to and developed in collaboration with PDPs. In particular, definitions of “successfully trialed”, “completion of late stage clinical trial” (i.e. with reference to diagnostics), “new or modified product”, “registration in Asia Pacific” should all be operationalized for each PDP. This M&E framework should take a</p>

systems perspective ensuring outcomes along the path from product development to uptake and effective use.

Management Response

Agreed. More targeted and better defined M & E frameworks will be developed in partnership with each PDP that is selected for support under the PDP Fund.

Recommendation 3

Take a full innovation lifecycle approach and integrate support of product R&D with support for ensuring uptake and optimal use. With more products within the PDP pipelines reaching market readiness over the last few years, greater attention should be placed on access, uptake, and preparing health systems to absorb PDP innovations most effectively.

Management Response

Agreed. Accelerating access to and use of new tools is a strategic priority under the Health Security Initiative. Consistent with our response to recommendation 2, DFAT will work with partners in the region, including the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria, the WHO, the Asia-Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) and research institutions on complementary programs and activities to enhance the availability and affordability of drugs, diagnostics and other relevant products.

Recommendation 4

Link DFAT research portfolios better in order to achieve a stronger end-to-end approach and greater coordination between R&D and access. Thirty percent (30%) of the \$30 million per annum currently spent on research goes toward PDPs, while 70% is for policy and systems research. While linkages do exist, generating formal mechanisms to ensure sensible connections will be important and help maximise Australia's influence.

Management Response

Partially agreed. Health security is one investment priority for DFAT in the health arena. R&D in relation to drugs and diagnostics, and research aimed at overcoming barriers to access and uptake in connection with these products, form part of a wider health research agenda. However, DFAT will seek to draw strong connections between health policy and systems research relevant for health security and its support for R&D on, and manufacturing, registration and distribution of, products relevant to emerging infectious diseases.

Recommendation 5

To provide greater transparency and alignment of investments to achieve product development results it is recommended that DFAT further leverage the PDP Funders Group to develop a more integrated monitoring and evaluation framework that reflects DFAT priorities.

Management Response

Agreed. DFAT will increase the seniority and intensity of its engagement with the PDP Funders Group and with the individual PDPs it supports as part of the implementation of Health Security Initiative. This is consistent with the Initiative's strategic priority of strengthening global and regional cooperation.