

Endline Evaluation - DFAT's Skills for Economic Growth and Prosperity' Investment in Bangladesh - Management Response 2023

Recommendation	Response	Action plan	Timeframe
<p>Recommendation 1: Undertake independent post-assessment of UCEP graduates</p> <p>Determine the current employment context of graduates, and to gather input about strengths and weaknesses of UCEP programming five years post program participation. This information should then be used to further strengthen program implementation. A secondary benefit would be the opportunity to further broaden the UCEP alumni cohort as an organisational resource supportive of program implementation, inclusion, improvement and advocacy.</p>	Agree	<p>UCEP regularly conducts tracer studies to track individuals who have received vocational training in order to find out whether or how they have used the training, and how their lives progressed over time. UCEP conducted the last tracer study in 2023 (external consultant Dobey International Ltd) to track UCEP graduates who had received vocational training in 2019 and 2020. Based on report findings and recommendations, UCEP will identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>UCEP plans to conduct the next tracer study in 2025.</p>	Through out the Phase 2 and to be finalised following the completion of the 2025 tracer study that will again look at the 2019 and 2020 cohort.
<p>Recommendation 2: Trial program concept in new districts</p> <p>While a major strength of UCEP currently is its long- and well-established relationships with its target communities. Consideration should also be given to trialling entry into new areas to test out UCEP capacity to commence program in new areas.</p>	Agree	UCEP Bangladesh has already expanded its programs in Cox's Bazar, Patuakhali, Sunamgonj, and planned to expand in another new locations.	2024-2025
<p>Recommendation 3: Develop a strategy aimed at clarifying needs and mobilising resources necessary for tech school refurbishment, including engagement of the corporate sector as a potential donor</p> <p>UCEP facilities available in classrooms and laboratories are mostly limited and dated. A strategy should be developed that aims to identify resources for lab refurbishment. This strategy should consider options for the business sector to 'adopt a lab' and/or donate obsolete equipment (such as sewing machines) to UCEP – given that even recently obsolete equipment will likely be far more technologically advanced than current equipment.</p>	Agree	<p>UCEP has already renovated/refurbished 05 technical schools with the installation of solar energy system, emergency evacuation stair, fire system, lighting protection system (LPS) supported by KiK Textilien. Electrical labs have been updated with the support from Schneider Electric Company.</p> <p>UCEP is exploring potential partners to support long-term project that include provisions for the renovation of school buildings, upgradation of labs and training facilities.</p>	2023-2025

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		UCEP is implementing projects funded by some corporate partners such as Standard Chartered Bank, Bestseller, Caterpillar, MTB, NKD, etc. UCEP will also explore opportunities to obtain support for training equipment from industries and local corporates.	
<p>Recommendation 4: UCEP should broaden its entrepreneurship and business development offering for graduates</p> <p>Add on training available online and through workshops to graduates could assist develop the skills necessary for business development, thus expanding options available to graduates in their pathway towards greater levels of economic security and advancement.</p>	Agree	UCEP has recently formed number of Entrepreneurship Development Committees (EDC) at its Regional Offices consisting of local entrepreneurs and businessmen. UCEP has also established Business Development Help Desks in every region to provide guidance to UCEP graduates regarding entrepreneurship development.	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 5: DFAT and UCEP should come together to reach agreement on reporting expectations, including consideration of support required to strengthen UCEP program monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>UCEP reporting is overly quantitative and fails to shed light on important qualitative aspects (strengths and weaknesses) of program implementation.</p>	Agree	UCEP will work on ensuring future reporting covers qualitative aspects of the program/project implementation.	Work will commence in 2024
<p>Recommendation 6: UCEP should deepen strategic partnerships with specialist GESI and PWD organisations</p> <p>While gender and disability performance in Phase One has been strong, there is both room and opportunity for UCEP to further strengthen their inclusion programming through strategic alliances with technically strong gender and PWD organisations.</p>	Agree	One of the core principles of UCEP is promoting gender equality and inclusiveness. UCEP will work to strengthen its strategic partnership with gender and PWD organisations.	Work will commence in 2024

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<p>Recommendation 7: UCEP should consider developing a disability focused skills unit that more deliberately works to identify PWD employment opportunities</p> <p>A more deliberately focused approach to creating employment pathways for PWD could be achieved with establishment of a specialised PWD focused skills unit, potentially in partnership with Access Bangladesh.</p>	Agree	UCEP is a member of Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN) and works closely with BBDN regarding job placements for PWD. UCEP has also partnered with Access Bangladesh Foundation (ABF) which provides training to UCEP staff on how to support PWD and provide skills training.	Ongoing
<p>Recommendation 8: DFAT and UCEP should revisit and review programming in relation to ‘minorities’ in order for there to be greater clarity around strengths, weaknesses and options in phase two.</p> <p>Currently there is a lack of clarity around QUEST programming in relation to minorities. It would be helpful for all parties to bring greater transparency and clarity to this complex issue to help ensure all parties are on the same page, and optimum approaches are being utilised.</p>	Agree	UCEP has started categorising minorities as ethnic minorities (includes indigenous people), transgender persons, persons with disabilities, religious minorities etc and collects and maintain information accordingly. UCEP will use their improved categorisation to inform programs.	Ongoing