

Justice Services and Stability for Development Program (JSS4D) Mid-Term Review

Summary of management response

DFAT welcomes the independent Mid-Term Review *of Justice Services and Stability for Development (JSS4D) Phase Two*. The review explored the effectiveness and efficiency of the program, sustainability of outcomes, and results on gender and disability inclusion. JSS4D is the current iteration of Australia's longstanding support to the law and justice sector in Papua New Guinea. We acknowledge the usefulness of the review to help strengthen program implementation and sector engagement for the remaining program period, in line with intended End of Program Outcomes.

Overall, the independent Mid Term Review concluded the program is performing well, and remains flexible, responsive and relevant to strategic priorities of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

DFAT broadly accepts the five recommendations put forward in the report. We agree the importance of maintaining focus on development outcomes aligned to Papua New Guinea's strategic priorities in law and justice (including addressing FSV and anti-corruption), the need to prioritise monitoring and evaluation, and maintain support for national and subnational activities.

The review also put forward a number of considerations for the design of the subsequent iteration of the law and justice program.

DFAT's next priority is to design Australia's new law and justice program for Papua New Guinea, which will commence following the conclusion of JSS4D in December 2023. We will work to build on areas of strength identified in the Mid-Term Review and to capitalise on emerging opportunities to enhance program impact. The design process will consider Review's suggestions, alongside independent and program research and evaluation findings, and consultations with key stakeholders.

Individual management response to the recommendations

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action plan	Timeframe
<p><u>Recommendation 1:</u> For this phase (and the next GoA-funded law and justice program), DFAT and GoA should continue to focus on strong development outcomes aligned with GoPNG’s strategic priorities around law and justice and addressing FSV and anti-corruption to advance Australian and GoPNG strategic interest.</p>	Agree	<p>DFAT’s current investment (INL816 – Justice Services and Stability for Development) is a sector-led investment with strong engagement from GoPNG counterparts at the national and subnational level, to ensure alignment with GoPNG strategic priorities. The program concludes in December 2023. A future law and justice investment will be designed to align with GoPNG and Australian development priorities around law and justice including addressing FSV and anticorruption.</p>	<p>DFAT will continue to engage closely with GoPNG counterparts to ensure activities in the current program address the sector’s most pressing needs.. Preparation for the design of a new law and justice investment is currently underway, with the design to take place in 2023.</p> <p>DFAT will engage GoPNG counterparts in the development of the design to ensure continued alignment with GoPNG strategic priorities, and ongoing partnership and involvement of the sector in implementation.</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p> <p>Incorporate into design for new law and justice program</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 2:</u> For the remainder of this phase, JSS4D should not use limited Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) Team time to undertake any major update of the MERL Plan or Multi-year Plan. However, there are critical actions that should be taken now in relation to both the MERL system and improving progress reporting (See Annex H).</p>	Agree	<p>DFAT agrees that JSS4D MERL team should focus on actions achievable in the time remaining in JSS4D phase two, to improve program monitoring and evaluation. DFAT has strengthened monitoring and evaluation resourcing within the program in 2022, to improve the existing MERL system and program reporting.</p>	<p>DFAT has commissioned four independent studies (currently underway) under JSS4D to strengthen evidence-based assessment of program impact and improve reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community and Business Perceptions of Crime and Safety Survey - Family and Sexual Violence (FSV) – JSS4D’s response to FSV in PNG. - Village Courts and Land Mediation - Local Land Court mentoring evaluation in Bougainville <p>These will be complemented by a range of internal reviews and research. Outcomes will inform progress reporting as well as future support to these critical areas. JSS4D and DFAT will consider and work to address Annex H recommendations.</p>	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p> <p>Incorporate into design for new law and justice program</p>

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<p><u>Recommendation 3:</u> The AHC (DFAT and AFP) continues to have an important role to play, including but not limited to, quarterly FSV meetings to ensure that all GoA programs on FSV are well coordinated, are aligned with accepted GoA policy and strategies on FSV and use evidence-based approaches.</p>	Agree	DFAT recognises the importance of ongoing collaboration with AFP and whole-of-Australian Government programs (including Australia’s gender program in PNG) to ensure alignment and coordination. Together with AFP, DFAT will work to ensure continuity of the quarterly coordination meetings for the remainder of Phase 2 and into the future.	DFAT has shared this recommendation with counterparts and will continue to convene these quarterly coordination meetings (DFAT, AFP, AGD, JSS4D), with all parties recognising their importance and mutual benefit. DFAT continue close coordination and look for opportunities to strengthen collaboration with AFP and whole-of-government programs in this space, including the Gender program.	<p>Immediate and ongoing</p> <p>Incorporate into design for new law and justice program</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 4:</u> In the current phase, JSS4D should maintain the planned 80/20 budgetary division between subnational and national activities. This division can be assured through developing a separate tally of resource allocations. This in turn will provide useful analysis for designing the next stage of the program.</p>	Agree	DFAT recognises that the majority of PNG citizens receive justice at the subnational level and is committed to continue this support, with a commitment to JSS4D’s planned 80/20 budgetary objectives.	DFAT will work with JSS4D to strengthen analysis of resource allocation to enhance end of program visibility and assessment of budgetary division.	<p>Quarter 1 2023</p> <p>Incorporate into design for new law and justice program</p>
<p><u>Recommendation 5:</u> In the current phase, JSS4D should maintain its existing provincial focus, except for Enga province where funds should be reallocated for the remainder of this phase. <i>Continue:</i> focus on FSV anti-corruption and the provinces JSS4D currently works in (with additional considerations for Enga). Continue support for co-funding</p>	Agree in part	<p>DFAT agrees to maintain the existing provincial focus in JSS4D Phase Two, and acknowledges the recommendation on Enga given delays in implementation to date. This MTR will support formal engagement with GoPNG and the Enga Provincial Government to agree next steps.</p> <p>DFAT agrees in principle to future considerations and will liaise with the design team to consider these.</p>	<p>DFAT will share this MTR and recommendation with the Strategic Program Governance Meeting and National Coordinating Mechanism to prompt further discussion and agree a way forward.</p> <p>DFAT will relay the MTR future considerations to the design team of the new law and justice program for consideration. The design team will draw upon independent and program monitoring, evaluations and research and engagement with program</p>	<p>Immediate</p> <p>Incorporate in design</p>

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<p>arrangements (eg Village Court construction).</p> <p><i>Consider/explore:</i> Consider increasing engagement with men on FSV; support increased demand for justice and collaboration with the BCEP program; increase youth engagement, improve disability access at program offices; actively seek to employ more people with disability and more Pacific Islander and PNG staff; explore learning from other programs in the region; trial simple gender responsive budgeting tools and advocate for more women in government-funded positions, particularly Village Courts.</p> <p><i>Reduce:</i> emphasis on sole funding infrastructure.</p>			<p>stakeholders when considering these recommendations.</p>	