

PACIFIC GIRL MID-TERM REVIEW 2023 – DFAT MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Summary of management response

Pacific Girl (\$4.8m, 2021 – 2026) is a multi-country program (Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) managed by SPC, under Pacific Women Lead. Pacific Girl supports adolescent girls in Pacific Island countries achieve their full potential. Pacific Girl partners are working towards transforming power relations and social norms that limit the choices, independence, and empowerment of adolescent girls (12 – 19 years of age) by engaging them in advocating for change and working with adolescent boys, families, school communities and health workers to change structures and systems that affect their lives.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) thanks the Pacific Community (SPC), the Pacific Program staff involved in the review, the Mid-Term Review Team, SPC project partners and the girls and young women who participate in Pacific Girl. DFAT welcomes the findings of the Mid-Term Review and agrees with SPC's overall finding that the *"Pacific Girl program is making notable progress towards outcomes that directly engage adolescent girls in the Pacific, including increasing adolescent girls' agency, making their priorities visible, and ensuring gender transformative programming in the Pacific informed by adolescent girls. While less progress has been made in increasing adolescent girls' value in the home or in sharing evidence and learning about successes in adolescent girls programming in the Pacific, there are foundations from which we can build..."*. Based on the Mid-Term Review, DFAT accepts the four recommendations and welcomes SPC's progress towards the identified adjustments to the program. Implementing the recommendations will strengthen engagement with adolescent girls and enhance outcomes, expand the reach of the program to benefit more girls throughout the Pacific, and build knowledge and evidence in the region on working with adolescent girls.

Individual management response to the recommendations

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
Recommendation 1 <i>SPC and DFAT: Consider Adolescent Girl Inclusion (AGI) as an intentional approach to ensure adolescent girls are considered, visible, and prioritised in programs, strategies and frameworks beyond Pacific Girl.</i>	Agree	DFAT agrees with the recommendation and considers Adolescent Girl Inclusion an important priority for Australia’s development programming in the Pacific. DFAT recognises the value of expanding and formalising Adolescent Girl Inclusion in a range of spheres both inside and outside the Pacific Girl program. With appropriate guidance and as co-designers, adolescent girls can gain significant value by leading and helping shape priorities in Pacific Girl and in their communities. Incorporating the views and lived experiences of adolescent girls will strengthen and compliment the technical expertise of implementers while providing adolescent girls with valuable learning opportunities beyond the program.	<p>SPC and DFAT have begun embedding AGI as part of their practice, where appropriate.</p> <p>SPC and DFAT will use their annual workplan to formally identify opportunities for AGI.</p>	Immediate
Recommendation 2 <i>Expand Pacific Girl in depth and reach by considering increasing its engagement with existing partners and exploring new partnerships in new countries.</i>	Agree	DFAT agrees with the recommendation, recognising SPC’s strong linkages with gender focal points throughout the Pacific. SPC is well placed to leverage these relationships to share the benefits of Pacific Girl, particularly among small island states. SPC will use the increased engagement to build technical knowledge and capacity and provide guidance to partners in additional countries on issues impacting adolescent girls. SPC will draw on research to identify where adolescent girls could most benefit such as sexual and reproductive health. Exploring hybrid and digital technologies for events and programs will also enable more adolescent girls to participate, particularly in remote populations. Exploring opportunities for girls, in all their diversity to participate.	<p>SPC currently engages partners in the region, including through the provision of expertise and small grants.</p> <p>SPC will scope new potential partners who work with adolescent girls in the region.</p> <p>SPC has identified initial strategic partnerships including in Solomon Islands and PNG and will seek to deepen these partnerships.</p> <p>SPC to share resources and training with partners to ensure that child protection obligations continue to be met by all partners.</p>	Q1 2024

Recommendation	Response	Explanation	Action Plan	Timeframe
Recommendation 3 <i>Reframe the Regional Learning Network as the Pacific Girl Network and prioritise its reinvigoration.</i>	Agree	DFAT agrees with the recommendation and sees value in reframing the Regional Learning Network to build greater focus on adolescent girl programming in the region and enhance convening power. The network will enable SPC, implementing partners and other relevant stakeholders to share resources and best practice across the region, collaborate and to better involve adolescent girls.	SPC is considering resources to build and maintain the network. Terms of reference to be reviewed by DFAT in early 2024.	Q1 2024
Recommendation 4 <i>Support Pacific Girl, Pacific Girl partners, and adolescent girls to work together to strengthen the Pacific Girl Theory of Change and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework.</i>	Agree	DFAT agrees with the recommendation and welcomes efforts to continuously improve and modify the Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) to better represent program outcomes and ensure SPC and their implementing partners are measuring appropriate indicators. Adjusting the framework will enable co-design with adolescent girls in line with recommendation 1, and encourage consideration of how qualitative data, including stories of lived experience, can be more effectively articulated in reporting.	SPC have identified areas for improvement in the MELF. SPC will review and adjust the MELF, including with input from adolescent girls and implementing partners. SPC will work with Pacific Women Lead Enabling Services and SPC's Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) to ensure MELF aligns with others across the Pacific Women Lead (PWL) program and other HRSD commitments, and that the Pacific Girl MELF is embedded in the PWL MELF.	Q1 and Q2 2024