

Independent Mid-Term Evaluation of the Water and Sanitation Initiative Global Program

Management Response

The Water and Sanitation Initiative (WSI) Global Program			
AidWorks initiative number: INI691			
Commencement date	July 2011	Completion date	30 June 2016
Total Australian \$		\$100.5 million (disbursement until 30 June 2014 \$62.8 million)	
Total other \$		N/A	
Delivery organisation(s)		The Water and Sanitation Program (WB), UNICEF-WASH, UNICEF-SWA- JMP, The World Health Organisation and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Asian Development Bank	
Implementing Partner(s)		The World Bank, UNICEF, The World Health Organization, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Asian Development Bank	
Country/Region		Global	
Primary Sector		Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	

DFAT welcomes the findings of this evaluation of the Water and Sanitation Initiative (WSI) Global Program. In the government's development policy, *Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*, DFAT aims to deliver an aid program that is innovative, promotes learning and influences partners to scale up successful models. DFAT's health and economic infrastructure strategies focus particularly on regional health security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, improved public health outcomes, private sector engagement including mobilising financing, and promoting women's participation and empowerment. We welcome the review findings that the WSI Global Program is well balanced to meet these objectives and that several of the partnerships are well placed to effectively promote aid program priorities.

DFAT's detailed response to the evaluation recommendations is attached.

DFAT Response to Evaluation Recommendations

Evaluation Recommendations		DFAT assessment informed by Evaluation Report
Recommendation 1: DFAT prioritises support as follows:		
a) Continue funding WSP with alignment to the Indo-Pacific region and fragile states.	Agree in principle	DFAT intends to continue engagement with the Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) given its focus on strengthening policy and institutions to respond to critical issues affecting the delivery of water and sanitation services and hygiene promotion. The WSP has a strong focus on South-East Asia, South Asia and has expanded its work in the Pacific. Commitment of funding will depend on aid budget outcomes.
b) Continue funding the WHO-WQP, at least to the end of phase 3 and possibly for a further phase provided a set of credible exit plans are developed for each country/intervention.	Agree in principle	While the WHO-Water Quality Partnership (WQP) has produced some good results, continuation of funding will depend on aid budget outcomes.
c) Gradually reduce the funding to GSF in favour of increasing funding to the global advocacy and knowledge management taking advantage of the WSSCC network.	Agree in principle	DFAT intends to continue engagement with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), with a focus on WASH-health linkages and gender equity, particularly issues of menstrual hygiene management and hand washing for women and girls. WSSCC also works to stimulate the local private sector. Subject to aid budget outcomes, possible future DFAT funding will target advocacy and knowledge management and promote the application of knowledge products in the Asia-Pacific region.
d) Scale future DFAT contribution to SWA so that it is in proportion to that of other donors (< than 25%)	Partially Agree	DFAT will consider the proportion of its funding to that of other donors and how Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) can be more effective in the Asia-Pacific region. See also our response to recommendation 2(a).

<p>e) If budget constraints allow, fund UNICEF, JMP and WFPF.</p>	<p>Partially agree</p>	<p>Subject to aid budget outcomes, DFAT intends to continue engagement with the Joint Monitoring Program for Drinking Water and Sanitation (JMP) given that it is an important global mechanism to report on the status of water supply and sanitation. DFAT support will be targeted in part to improving monitoring and reporting in the Pacific.</p> <p>UNICEF Global WASH Program is also supported as UNICEF is the global lead for water issues in the Post-2015 framework. Maintaining a close relationship and dialogue with the Global WASH team in UNICEF enables DFAT to engage in the Post-2015 dialogue.</p> <p>Water Financing Partnership Facility (WFPF) - DFAT has not contributed funding since 2011, but is the largest contributor to the multi donor trust fund component of the WFPF and will remain engaged to monitor the effective expenditure of aid funds. DFAT has not contributed to the Water Partnerships Program (WPP) to date. DFAT does not derive significant policy dialogue / influence from the facility and instead proposes to provide water resources management support to the World Bank's Water Global Practice and the Asian Development Bank through the Australian Water Partnership.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: DFAT engage more actively but in fewer partnerships through forming engagement plans that:</p>		
<p>a) Seek like-minded lead donor to share the burden of continuing the partnership with WSSCC/SWA</p>	<p>Partially agree</p>	<p>DFAT will encourage other donors to contribute where appropriate and will seek like-minded donors to discuss possible lead donor arrangements, but will also seek to maintain DFAT's ability to influence sector policy dialogue.</p>
<p>b) Matches the needs of DFAT bilateral programs in each country with the potential for applying and testing partnerships based knowledge</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	
<p>c) Encourages the partnerships to continue improvements in monitoring, evaluation and reporting especially on the success or otherwise of dissemination and the practical application of guidance, advocacy and knowledge sharing efforts.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	