

MFAT Management Response to Evaluation of the Partnerships Fund for International Development

Recommendation	Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Do Not Agree)
<p>Clarity of core purpose 1) (Priority A): MFAT needs to clearly articulate across the Ministry, and at Post, that relationships and relationship management are core to the Partnerships Fund, that relationships matter not just for contributing to development but are worthy in their own right</p>	<p>Partially Agree Relationships do matter and we will continue to invest in them. At the same time the main focus of the Partnerships Fund is to deliver sustainable development outcomes and impact.</p>
<p>Better utilisation of partner capabilities 2) (Priority A): MFAT considers conducting a review of core partner organisation sectoral capabilities, with a view to issuing a Partnerships Fund call for proposals under the core capabilities identified by this review. OR</p>	<p>Partially Agree The alignment of New Zealand aid programme priorities and core partner organisation sectoral capabilities will be considered in an improved funding approach.</p>
<p>3) (Priority A): MFAT considers a Partnerships Fund process that allows partners to propose activities that do not strictly align with its sectoral and investment priorities, but that do align with the broader priorities of the New Zealand Aid Programme, requiring partners to demonstrate this alignment at the concept note stage.</p>	<p>Partially Agree See response to Recommendation 2.</p>
<p>4) (Priority B): Each year MFAT publishes on its website the current investment priorities for all of its country programmes.</p>	<p>Agree MFAT will provide information on country priorities on its website.</p>
<p>5) (Priority B): MFAT considers actively encouraging collaborative joint proposals between large and small NGOs, and between large NGOs and private sector firms.</p>	<p>Partially Agree MFAT will consider in an improved funding approach options for partnerships where there is value in terms of results and impact.</p>
<p>6) (Priority B): MFAT considers broadening match funding criteria and the types of in-kind contributions for smaller NGOs, reducing the amount of funding that NGO partners need to raise and allowing access to innovative financing mechanisms and other international funding sources.</p>	<p>Partially Agree MFAT will consider matched funding criteria and types in an improved funding approach including the recommendation from the evaluation.</p>

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7) (Priority B): MFAT considers giving implementing partners in developing countries direct access to the Partnerships Fund, regarding them as the lead partners, but in partnership with a New Zealand-based organisation.	Partially Agree MFAT agrees to consider the question of funding for in-country partners in an improved funding approach including the recommendation from the evaluation and other options.
8) (Priority B): MFAT considers giving added emphasis to implementing partner capacity building in developing countries, making it a core purpose of the Partnerships Fund.	Agree MFAT agrees to consider the question of capacity building of in-country implementing partners in an improved funding approach.
9) (Priority B): MFAT provides greater clarity, across the Ministry and at Post, regarding the organisations that are the participants in the partnerships supported by the Partnerships Fund.	Agree MFAT will provide greater clarity on organisations that are participants in partnerships in an improved funding approach.
<p>Sustainability</p> <p>10) (Priority A): The sustainability of Partnerships Fund-supported activities be reviewed by MFAT, and be considered as either:</p> <p>(i) the capacity and willingness of beneficiaries to act in a self-reliant manner, ensuring the continuation of intended activity outcomes; or</p> <p>(ii) the ongoing ability and willingness of implementing partners to ensure the continuation of intended activity outcomes after the cessation of Fund support,</p> <p>and that these conceptualisations be incorporated into the design, monitoring and evaluation of activities.</p>	Partially Agree MFAT's overall approach to sustainability is being considered in a revised Development Quality Policy and in the business case approach. MFAT will consider sustainability in an improved funding approach including the options recommended in the evaluation.
<p>Modalities and management</p> <p>11) (Priority B): MFAT conducts an internal review to consider whether state sector organisations continue to participate in the Partnerships Fund or be directly contracted elsewhere in the New Zealand aid programme.</p>	Partially Agree MFAT will consider (rather than review) state sector organisation participation in an improved funding approach.

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12) (Priority A): MFAT conducts an internal review of the number of activities in its country programmes with the view to setting upper limits in each and providing a co-ordinating mechanism across modalities to ensure these limits are not exceeded and are appropriate to administrative resourcing.	Do not agree MFAT regularly considers country programme portfolios and resourcing. Country evaluations also inform management decisions and resourcing.
13) (Priority A): MFAT considers the adoption of a “longer” orientation of future Partnerships fund activities beyond the current standard of three to five years.	Agree MFAT will consider the length of activities in an improved funding approach.
14) (Priority B): MFAT considers the implementation of a joint Post-Partnerships team model of managing Fund-supported activities.	Partially Agree A joint Post-Partnerships team activity management model already exists. MFAT will consider what enhancements might be made to the joint management model.
15) (Priority C): As part of MFAT’s development of online reporting, it reviews the results frameworks to ensure the data gathered can report on the effects the activities are having on beneficiaries, and can be measured against the Sustainable Development Goals for that country.	Partially Agree MFAT will consider (rather than review) results measurement in an improved funding approach.
16) (Priority C): MFAT considers co-funding Partnerships Funding supported activities beyond their initial life, following the model of the MBIE Partnerships Scheme.	Agree MFAT will consider options for further funding in an improved funding approach.