



MFAT Management Response to Independent Evaluation of the ASEAN Renewable Energy Facility

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
Maintain a flexible and responsive modality with collaborative and localised approaches and access to suitable implementing suppliers.	Agree. Maintaining a flexible, responsive modality, collaborative and localised approaches, and access to a mix of international and local suppliers as suitable all remain considerations for MFAT.
Continue to lead (or co-lead) donor coordination and harmonisation of Lao PDR.	Partially Agree. MFAT acknowledges and values the Facility's work in Donor Partner Coordination which has been beneficial on a number of levels, including coherence of renewable energy support. The collaborative approach to coordination opportunities continues to be of value to MFAT. However, to ensure sustainability of coordination and harmonisation efforts, it is important that this is primarily led locally. We also understand Electricite Du Laos has started to organise and lead donor coordination meetings and the GoL is in the process of establishing a formal working group for Donor Partner Coordination in the energy sector and has drafted a TOR for the sector/subsector working group to help with the process. The Facility will continue its support until the activity concludes in October 2025.
Deepen the relationship with RGC and key development partners in Cambodia to further understand the need for direct TA projects.	Partially Agree. Deepening relationships with RGC and key development partners in Cambodia, as recommended, could provide a mechanism to build New Zealand's profile but MFAT notes it may be challenging in the crowded market.
Deliver fewer, higher-value and longer-term projects that closely align with more targeted Facility outcomes.	Agree. MFAT agrees better development outcomes are achieved in renewable energy activities that deliver fewer, higher-value and longer-term projects that are aligned to a narrower Programme Logic. A regularly reviewed and updated Menu of Services with clear examples of the types of projects that are in or out of scope would assist with this change.

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
Incorporating face-to-face implementation support to overcome barriers to implementing recommendations.	<p>Partially Agree. MFAT agrees there is merit in follow-up implementation support and is already providing this in an existing work package under the Facility.</p> <p>The mechanisms of a Short-term Advisory Pool, full-time TA, or similar arrangement could be considered in the design of other similar renewable energy activities, and where appropriate, incorporating into supplier contracts, the development of how-to guides, slide decks and training modules.</p>
Revising the Facility's Programme Logic to ensure outcomes are realistic and reflect anticipated key priorities.	<p>Agree. MFAT acknowledges a revision of the Facility's Programme Logic is overdue and that the outcomes should be more realistic and targeted to reflect key priorities.</p>
Improving the Results Framework and progress reporting to better capture the Facility's contributions.	<p>Agree. MFAT acknowledges that improving Results Framework and progress reporting for Facility activities requires specialist support to ensure data collection and monitoring against intended outcomes is realistic and meaningful.</p>
Recognising the readiness levels, continue to slowly advance and mainstream inclusion.	<p>Agree. Establishment of inclusion expertise and making inclusion development more explicit through an inclusion action plan would more effectively guide other similar renewable energy activities to ensure inclusion is mainstreamed into programming and the Facility is collecting the data required to report on inclusion activities.</p>
Considering the possible management arrangements for a flexible and responsive modality in Lao PDR that maximises efficiency.	<p>Agree. Management arrangements that have enabled a flexible and responsive modality have been important in this Facility and have maximised efficiency. MFAT agrees that Management arrangements for different facilities need to be tailored to the Programme Logic.</p>
Continuing to ensure a localised approach through having locally engaged staff and external consultants for coordination and implementation support.	<p>Agree. MFAT values the work of locally engaged staff and recognises a localised approach has enhanced relationships with GoL.</p>

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
Ensuring future management arrangements are resourced to undertake all management functions.	Partially Agree. Although transitioning more management functions from MFAT to the Facility Manager or Managing Contractor can create efficiencies, this change would need gradual phasing rather than an immediate action. A gradual handover allows MFAT time to test the environment and ensure appropriate resourcing.
Embedding access to and budget for regular MERL and inclusion expertise as part of future management arrangements.	Agree. This recommendation aligns with MFAT's strategic direction for improved inclusion across our policy, programming and partnerships by mainstreaming gender and social inclusion into IDC activities. MFAT acknowledges the value of dedicated resourcing for MERL and inclusion expertise within renewable energy facilities.
Maintain existing governance arrangements for Lao PDR and Cambodia, but ensure that Steering Committee meetings occur more regularly, in-person and are strategic.	Agree. Governance meetings should occur more regularly and include opportunity for strategic discussion.
Continuing assistance to Lao PDR, noting this should be balanced with exploring opportunities that will benefit LDCs at a regional level and support regional integration.	Agree. MFAT agrees that Lao PDR would benefit from continued assistance from the Facility and that there is room for the Facility to further explore opportunities that will benefit LDCs at a regional level and support of regional integration.

