

MFAT Management Response to Strategic Evaluation of New Zealand's Fiji Programme 2019-2023

Evaluation Report Recommendation	MFAT Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
Recommendation 1: MFAT's Fiji Programme to embed a programmatic approach in the design and implementation of new and, where possible, existing activities.	Agree.
Recommendation 2: MFAT to strengthen the process for selecting the modality for its activities.	Agree. Strengthening the process for selecting the modality for activities is an area for MFAT to consider and work on.
Recommendation 3: MFAT's Fiji Programme and CSO partners to co-develop a CSO engagement strategy to improve engagement with local CSOs.	Agree. MFAT acknowledges the value in improving local engagement, and will consider developing an MFAT-CSO engagement strategy to form the basis for bilateral CSO engagement plans.

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Recommendation 4: MFAT to strengthen efforts to address gender and social inclusion by: a. including gender and/or inclusion outcomes in all new (or updated) activities in the Fiji programme. b. prioritising the completion and roll-out of the MFAT gender capability support programme which is currently being developed in-house. c. updating and developing guidance notes and programming tools to assist the integration of GEDSI into all aspects of activities, from design through to monitoring, evaluation and reporting. d. creating a knowledge hub which draws on the experiences of partners and provides a platform for sharing and learning about approaches to GEDSI. e. expanding the current pool of GEDSI technical expertise available to support activities, in collaboration with development partners working in the region and at country level, for example, DFAT, ADB, the UN, regional organisations such as the SPC and PIFS, and international, regional and national NGOs. f. improving processes for tracking expenditure on GEDSI, particularly in large activities.	Agree. Current International Development Cooperation (IDC) programme-wide efforts to address gender and social inclusion include work to integrate gender and inclusion outcomes in new and existing activities, and the completion and roll-out of the MFAT gender capability support programme. MFAT acknowledges the importance of further updating and developing GEDSI guidance and programming tools, creating new and further drawing on existing GEDSI knowledge <u>hubs</u>, expanding the current pool of GEDSI technical expertise and improving processes for tracking expenditure on GEDSI.

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Recommendation 5: MFAT to strengthen the 4YP MERL structures and processes by: a. introducing a 4YP MERL system that includes: (i) a framework with mid-level outcomes, bridging the gap between the 4YP strategic goals and activities; and (ii) expanding the annual reflection session. b. resourcing monitoring and learning activities, tracking MERL expenditure and implementing recommendations from reviews and evaluations.	Agree. a. MFAT has replaced 4 Year Plans with Country Plans and introducing a MERL system to bridge the gap between strategic goals and activities. This provides an opportunity to reassess the current Annual Reflections process and consider improvements going forward. b. MFAT has updated its MERL guidance to better support activity managers in ensuring MERL is considered early in the process. MFAT is introducing a new Insights and Evidence workstream that will support learning opportunities and promote a culture of knowledge exchange.
Recommendation 6: MFAT to enhance coherence and coordination within MFAT, and between MFAT and other New Zealand government agencies, by: a. leveraging a 4YP MERL system (see Recommendation 5) to facilitate the collection of data and insights from New Zealand government agencies, collectively assess the impact of New Zealand's efforts in Fiji, and foster synergies to improve the overall coherence of New Zealand's Fiji Programme. b. ensuring all relevant New Zealand government agencies are fully briefed on the new Fiji Country Plan, and their role in delivering on the strategic goals.	Partially agree. MFAT acknowledges that more effective coordination within our Ministry and other New Zealand government agencies would enhance the overall coherence of New Zealand's Fiji Programme. Careful consideration of the Ministry's and other New Zealand government agencies' capacity and priorities is required for clarity of roles in delivering strategic goals, better integration of MERL systems across agencies and the creation of knowledge sharing opportunities.

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Recommendation 7: MFAT to further enhance coordination with other development partners and Fiji Government by: a. advocating for the establishment of a formal donor coordination platform that meets regularly with the Fiji Government. b. prioritising joint sectoral planning with development partners for initiatives under the new Fiji Country Plan.	Agree. MFAT supports the establishment of a formal donor coordination platform and will prioritise sectoral planning with development partners for initiatives under the new Fiji Country Plan, where applicable.
Recommendation 8: MFAT to better leverage regional support in bilateral activities, by: a. enabling knowledge-sharing opportunities where success stories, best practices, and innovations from regional projects can be disseminated and adapted to Fiji's context, and vice versa. b. using participation in regional and international forums to support Fiji on issues of mutual interest under the 4YP. c. ensuring regional activity governance mechanisms and reporting processes identify where regional activities with successful outcomes can be scaled up within Fiji.	Agree. MFAT agrees that regional and bilateral support should work effectively to leverage Fiji Programme's strategic objectives and will look for opportunities to increase knowledge sharing in activity design, MERL and delivery.