

Management Response and Recommendations Action Plan

Evaluation Report Title: Strategic Evaluation Zambia Inclusive Education Programme (ZIEP)

Date of Response (dd/mm/yyyy): 12/03/2015

This management response was produced by Sightsavers Zambia and recommendations action plan will be followed up by Kennedy Phiri (Programme Manager).

1. Overall Response (max 250 words)

The Zambia Country Office appreciates and acknowledges the evaluation findings and recommendations contained in the evaluation report. In many instances, the findings reflect the true picture of what the programme was able to achieve and what it could have done better. We are happy with the report and feel the recommendations will inform the design of a new education programme. The overall grading for the different areas reflects the work on the ground and the views of the beneficiaries at the different levels.

One issue that we note is the limited time frame in which the evaluation was undertaken due to the fact that initially we could not find a suitable consultant. We feel that as a result of this it has not been possible for the CO to take the time to engage on the feedback from the consultant and ensure that a few critical areas were fully addressed such as consistency in the grading in the executive summary and the main report.

2. Findings and Evaluation Criteria Ratings we concur with (max 500 words)

- Relevance; we agree with the score of Highly Satisfactory because the programme was relevant to local and national development priorities and practices in Zambia.
- Effectiveness; we agree with the score of Highly Satisfactory because we know that the ZIEP programme met all its objectives and surpassed the target of children identified and supported.
- Efficiency; we agree with the score of Satisfactory because the programme started on a slow note but was able to pick up towards the end of second year and beginning of third year to meet project objectives
- Impact; we agree with the score of Highly Satisfactory because the programme made a great impact on the beneficiaries and their families as well as the communities. This is evident in that another INGO has replicated the work done in ZIEP for their inclusive education project.

- Sustainability; the programme is rooted in the districts and this will ensure that districts keep pushing the agenda of Inclusive Education in their district plans especially with the decentralisation process taking off in Zambia
- Coherence/Coordination; we agree with the score because links with other programs such as eye health programmes have been established though this could have been strengthened more.

3. Findings and Evaluation Criteria Ratings we question (max 500 words)

The consensus amongst ZCO is that there is no recommendation that we did not agree with as such, although recommendation 2 :

- Develop a strategy for deployment of ZAMISE trained teachers at Community Schools – input at community and zonal level.

had already been in the programme plan and implemented prior to the evaluation and therefore does not need further action.

Recommendations Action Plan

Evaluation Recommendations (A)	Accepted/ Rejected (B)	Priority High/ Medium/ Low (C)	If “Accepted”, Action plan for Implementation or if “Rejected”, Reason for Rejection (D)	Responsibility (E)	Timeline (F)
1 Draw up lessons learnt from refraction exercises and continue to collect data on attainment of refracted children	Accepted	High	The DEBS will continue to collect data on attainment of refracted children till December 2015	PO	December 2015
2 Develop a strategy for deployment of ZAMISE trained teachers at Community Schools – input at community and zonal level.	Reject	low	The agreement on how the teachers would be deployed was already agreed by the DEBS and the individual teachers before training and therefore before the evaluation.	N/A	None
3 Follow up the development of the ZIEP database to ensure that all districts covered by ZIEP incorporate the facility into their practice	Partially accepted	Medium	A plan is in place to support districts that had challenges with database. This will cost funds that the CO does not have and we have to negotiate with PPR for unrestricted funds to do this	PO	December 2015
4 Provide the MOE with lessons from ZIEP that can help promote inclusion in other districts at no cost.	Accepted	medium	We will share the lessons from ZIEP through the PCC – a forum used by NGOs to engage with MoE on education matters and also through a meeting with deputy Permanent Secretary	PM	June 2015
5 Continue to develop a pan-disability approach in the work of the partners that takes account of children with additional needs already in mainstream schools.	Accepted	High	This is part of our programming for all IE projects	CO	On going

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<p>6 Continue to influence change in specials schools and units that will enable them to share their expertise with mainstream schools and allow children from specialist provision to transfer to mainstream schooling where it is in the children's interests.</p>	Accepted	Medium	<p>We have shared ideas on this with Leonard Cheshire and we believe that they have taken these ideas as part of the IE project they are implementing Going forward, influencing change in special schools cannot be done in the absence of an active advocacy programme. Follow up activities on ZIEP phase II can incorporate this as we look at getting more evidence</p>	CO	On going
<p>7 Continue to press for a national symposium on inclusive education that will take forward the debate in Zambia</p>	Partially accepted	Low	<p>Although we would like to support this effort, the closure of ZIEP means we do not have funding to host such an event</p>	N/A	N/A
<p>8 Adopt a proactive approach to ensure that the expertise and lessons learnt from ZIEP are shared with other NGOs and INGOs operating in related areas.</p>	Accepted	Medium	<p>We have already been sharing lessons from ZIEP. For example, we have had discussions with Leonard Cheshire who are now implementing and IE project in some of the districts the we worked in. Now evaluation report is signed off, this will be shared with DFID, Irish Aid and MoE</p>	IFO and PM	July 2015
<p>Additional Actions (G):</p>					