

UNDP Management Response
Midterm Review and Evaluation of the DICT-UNDP Free Wi-Fi for All Project

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Input into and update in ERC:	Position:	Unit/Bureau:

Overall comments: UNDP welcomes the mid-term review exercise and acknowledges the findings and recommendations of the Independent Consultant. It should be noted that DICT was not able to provide feedback despite several requests from the Consultant and UNDP. The final report was able to incorporate comments from UNDP and the Provincial Government of Lanao del Sur as members of the Evaluation Reference Group.

Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 1: Realistic project timeframe. A more realistic project timeframe should be designed factoring in the disruptions with attendant adjustments in implementing government and agency financial arrangements. As to the specifications of these adjustments, it would depend on flexibilities that may be accommodated by the national government (e.g., in terms of the annual budget cycle) and by UNDP (e.g., in terms of international and national bidding).				
Management Response: In the Project Board meeting (PBM) held last 22 September 2021, it was agreed that a new project will be co-designed using the uncommitted resources of the project. This new project will consider the realistic timeline and adjusted technical specifications as recommended by the TER.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking*	
			Status	Comments
1.1. UNDP and DICT, together with the identified Technical Working Group (TWG) members during the PBM, Department of Health (DOH) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), to co-design the new project which will respond to the new priorities and context of the government.	October – November 2021	Project Board Institutions and Partnerships Programme Team Project Management	Ongoing	Drafting of TOR for the ProDoc writer and letter to the TWG are ongoing.

		Team		
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 2: Adopt additional technical refinements. Since the beginning of the project in September 2018 there have been improvements in VSAT models and technologies. Without dropping the SLA modality, minimum service requirements should be increased. Technologies that maximize upload/download speeds must be considered including shifting from KU to KA band technologies as stated earlier. The progressively increasing appetite for bandwidth should be planned for.				
Management Response: In the Project Board meeting (PBM) held last 22 September 2021, it was agreed that a new project will be co-designed using the uncommitted resources of the project. This new project will consider the realistic timeline and adjusted technical specifications as recommended by the TER.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
2.1 UNDP and DICT, together with DOH and DILG as the identified TWG members during the PBM, to co-design the new project which will respond to the new priorities and context of the government.	October – November 2021	Project Board Institutions and Partnerships Programme Team Project Management Team	Ongoing	Drafting of TOR for the ProDoc writer and letter to the TWG are ongoing.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 3: Accommodate greater participation. The active engagement of DICT provincial engineers, LGUs and the private sector in maintenance, value-added services and technological enhancements should be encouraged and may be provided for in the SLAs.				
Management Response:				

Partnership arrangements with DICT provincial engineers and LGUs will be strengthened, and private sector engagement will be mobilized in the new project design.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
2.2 UNDP and DICT, together with DOH and DILG as the identified TWG members during the PBM, to co-design the new project which will respond to the new priorities and context of the government. Design will include LGUs and private sector.	October – November 2021	Project Board Institutions and Partnerships Programme Team Project Management Team	Ongoing	Communications with DICT Provincial Engineers and LGUs, through DICT, were sent.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 4: Future-proofing. The project should be more anticipatory and consider incorporating adaptive management in plans and strategies that would future-proof Project interventions leading to greater sustainability. These include: technological and service requirements forecasting for Outputs 1 & 3; and linking up DevLIVE training to NEDA's Ambisyon 2040 outcomes for Output 2.				
Management Response: Risk management and sustainability planning are key components of the FWFA Project. Anticipatory and adaptive management planning and strategies will be embedded in the new project design. While the recommendation to link DevLIVE to Ambisyon 2040 outcomes is laudable, this is too Ambitious for the project to implement at this point. UNDP will continue to promote the use of DevLIVE to ensure citizen's participation and feedback in large-scale government projects.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
4.1 UNDP and DICT, together with DOH and DILG as the identified TWG members during the PBM, to co-design	October – November 2021	Project Board	Ongoing	Drafting of TOR for the ProDoc writer

the new project which will respond to the new priorities and context of the government. Adoption of DevLIVE for the new project will be assessed in the formulation of the project document.		Institutions and Partnerships Programme Team Project Management Team		and letter to the TWG are ongoing.
Evaluation Recommendation or Issue 5: Strengthen Internal and External Communication. It would be worthwhile investing in internal and external communication as well as social preparation with a minor rationalization of budgets to tip slightly towards non-technical interventions.				
Management Response: UNDP welcomes the recommendation to invest in communications and social preparation. Improvements in communications strategy and social preparation will be incorporated in the new project document.				
Key Action(s)	Time Frame	Responsible Unit(s)	Tracking	
			Status	Comments
5.1 UNDP and DICT, together with DOH and DILG as the identified TWG members during the PBM, to co-design the new project which will respond to the new priorities and context of the government and will include improved communications and social preparation.	October – November 2021	Project Board Institutions and Partnerships Programme Team Project Management Team	Ongoing	Drafting of TOR for the ProDoc writer and letter to the TWG are ongoing.