

Evaluation Report Title: Delivering Reproductive Health Results (DRHR) Through Non-State Providers in Pakistan – MSI/PSI Impact Evaluation Report. March 2016.

Response to Evaluation Report (overarching narrative)

DFID Pakistan welcomes the findings of the external impact evaluation of the Delivering Reproductive Health Results programme. The Delivering Reproductive Health Results programme is a £30 million, four year (2012-2016) programme, which aims to ensure a wide availability of high-quality, affordable contraceptive and reproductive health products and services in Pakistan through the private sector such as shops, pharmacies and clinics. The evaluation was commissioned to help DFID Pakistan assess the impact of the programme in order to help inform the development of a future reproductive health programme.

The programme works with three implementing partners: Marie Stopes International (MSI), Population Services International (PSI) and DKT International. DKT International was not included in this evaluation since it joined the programme after the baseline assessment was undertaken in mid-2013.

This quantitative study was well conducted using household surveys, clinic surveys and retail outlet surveys; using two intervention groups (PSI and combined PSI & MSI) and comparing them to a control group. Propensity score matching was used to remove biases between the groups since they were not randomly selected, and to provide a strong estimate of effect. The areas examined included access, utilisation, equity and quality of reproductive health services.

The overall finding of the study was that there was no significantly different effect of the programme on access to and utilisation of family planning. For most of the indicators, the intervention groups were either comparable to, and in some cases, worse than the control areas. This finding was surprising given that programme data had indicated that the programme was improving access and utilisation to reproductive health services, particularly for those living in rural areas. Furthermore, the programme had scored well at annual reviews for achievements against its logframe targets, including a mid-term review led by a team of independent consultants in 2015. This highlights the wider importance of external, robust evaluations to independently assess the true value programmes are making to development outcomes.

The evaluation was not designed, nor does it provide, conclusive reasons behind the findings – so it is possible the findings could be a true reflection of the impact of the programme or due to methodological reasons associated with undertaking evaluations in the ‘real world’ where external factors cannot be fully controlled. Irrespective of the reasons, the evaluation provides sufficient grounds for DFID Pakistan to carefully re-examine its approach for a future programme.

Management Response & Recommendations Action Plan

DFID Pakistan will commission qualitative research to complement this study to gain insights from beneficiary and service providers in order to better understand some of the underlying reasons behind the findings. This new evidence, along with an appraisal of other national and international evidence, will help inform changes needed to the future programme to help improve its impact.

Management Response & Recommendations Action Plan

Evaluation Report Title:

Recommendations	Accepted or Rejected	If “Accepted”, Action plan for Implementation or if “Rejected”, Reason for Rejection
A recommendation for future impact evaluations might be to include some qualitative components, such as interviews with implementers and clients, in order to understand better the sometimes unexpected results generation by surveys.	Accepted	<p>This recommendation is accepted but it is felt that waiting to undertake the qualitative research as part of a future impact evaluation would be too late to inform the design of the successor programme, the business case for which will be completed by early 2017. DFID Pakistan will therefore commission this complementary qualitative research separately to better understand the reasons why the programme may not have had the desired impact and the lessons that can be learnt.</p> <p>It will be important that an impact evaluation is repeated for the future successor programme in order assess whether the modifications to the programme design have increased the programme’s effectiveness.</p>

Management Response & Recommendations Action Plan