

UK House of Commons – International Development Committees Inquiry

Response from ACTED in Pakistan

Strategy, coherence and alignment

Are the UK's strategic aims for its Pakistan aid programme clear and appropriate?

Yes. In Pakistan, the UK's country programme has covered a wide array of aspects required for responding to the many and multi-faceted needs of a developing, disaster-prone, and fragile context. Through both the Multi-Year Humanitarian Programme (pillars 1 and 2) as well as the Building Disaster Resilience Programme (BDRP) in Pakistan, the UK provided a sustained long-term commitment to meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of communities impacted by both natural and man-made disasters, while also investing in the structures and systems needed to ensure the ultimate resilience of these same communities against future shocks. The level of strategic coherence between these programmes is evident, with each initiative closely and appropriately aligned with the stated policy priorities of the Government of Pakistan. Moreover, beyond disaster response and preparedness, the UK's various developmental initiatives in Pakistan appear to be well informed and appropriately targeted in responding to actual and identified needs. Most notably, the emphasis on supporting access to education for vulnerable girls and young women both reflects the reality of Pakistan being one of the countries with the highest gender disparities in terms of education, along with the Government's own commitments to achieving SDG 4 as reflected in the National Action Plan as well as Article 25(A) of the Constitution of Pakistan stipulating free and compulsory education to all children/youth ages 5-16.

Are other aspects of the UK/Pakistan relationship coherent and well-coordinated with the aid programme and its aims and objectives?

As indicated above, the UK/Pakistan relationship appears to be very coherent with high-levels of coordination between the UK's various programmes and the developmental and humanitarian priorities of the Government of Pakistan. This is reflected most clearly in the extensive degree of Government coordination and buy-in integrated throughout the various programmes and interventions funded by the UK; for BDRP, project steering committees were established with both national and provincial authorities chairing these groups, ensuring their integrated involvement in key strategic decisions at every level. Moreover, these authorities, both within the framework of BDRP as well as the UK's other programmes, are directly consulted in the selection and prioritization of areas of intervention. This is particularly the case for more decentralised sectors of intervention, such as emergency response and education, where the integration of provincial and/or district level authorities plays a critical role in ensuring the appropriate targeting of activities, as such matters fall within their jurisdictions and mandate.

To what extent is there effective joined up strategy and delivery across the country portfolio, and what has the trajectory of programming priorities and impact been over the last 4 years?



As mentioned above, strategic coherence and coordination between the UK's country portfolio in Pakistan is significant. This is best demonstrated by the interlinkages between the multi-year MYHP (pillars 1 and 2) and BDRP programmes which, in conjunction, provided a well-rounded, highly coordinated response to both the immediate humanitarian needs of communities impacted by natural disasters and/or complex emergencies (MYHP) whilst also ensuring the delivery of longer-term, development-oriented resilience programming that aimed to ultimately strengthen these very communities towards future hazards and shocks (BDRP). Given the significant reduction in funding by other key donors such as the EU and US in Pakistan, the UK's investment in the country through its country portfolio has been crucial in saving lives, promoting coherence amongst displaced and host communities, supporting local government in efficient service delivery, and overall strengthening the sustainable resilience of disaster-prone communities towards future crises.

Through the Natural Disaster Consortium (NDC) – consisting of UN Agencies, INGOs, and a NNGO – the UK has responded to seven different natural disasters throughout Pakistan (both response and recovery), including COVID-19, drought, earthquake, flooding (both rural and urban), heat waves, and severe winter storms. Within the NDC's various interventions, partners achieved a national reach delivering aid in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab provinces, while ACTED alone reached 322,904 vulnerable households (approximately 2,260,328 individuals) through life-saving multi-sectoral programming. Aid delivered to disaster-stricken communities through the NDC not only served to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of these populations, but were also complemented by the mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction considerations that ensured the sustainability of aid and protected against future shocks. This was most evident in ACTED's shelter activities, where DRR trainings were integrated alongside high-quality shelter kits distributed to flood-affected households; in 2020, when responding to flooding in the village of Peer Fayyaz Shah, in Sindh Province, ACTED found that households that had been constructed using shelter kits and advanced DRR trainings provided in 2018 were the only to survive the most recent flooding without damage. Moreover, post distribution monitoring and endline evaluations of ACTED's WASH initiatives implemented under the umbrella of NDC found an average increase of 40% in communal access to clean water sources, while the installation of reverse osmosis plants contributed to an 18-24% reduction in the spread of water-borne diseases among target populations.

Similarly, through the IRC-led RELIEF consortium, UK funding supported multi-year/sectoral assistance for populations impacted by complex emergencies, notably displaced populations and host communities, reaching 369,037 persons and representing a significantly higher pool of beneficiaries reached than any other respective donor agency during the same four-year period. Upon completion of the RELIEF intervention, displaced and host community women who reported feeling safe in accessing basic resources, such as water, increased to 65%, while a further 261,179 individuals were provided with responsive protection activities through referral mechanisms and field teams.

Through the CAWI consortium, funded under BDRP, the UK invested significantly in development-oriented solutions to humanitarian problems through Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM), climate smart agriculture, solarisation of water systems, and various other initiatives designed to strengthen the internal capacities of communities and local authorities to sustainably mitigate against future crises. Within the CAWI consortium, ACTED alone delivered multi-faceted resilience programming to 57,476 households (approximately 402,329 individuals) demonstrating the scope and reach with which this UK-funded initiative was carried out, and significantly reducing both the human and financial costs of

future disasters. Upon completion, an external evaluation found that the BDRP impacted significant reductions in household vulnerability among target communities, with endline values of 38%, 33%, and 29% of households scoring low, medium, and high on the Household Resilience Index (HRI), respectively, in comparison to baseline values of 78%, 18%, and 4%. In total, a net of 287,491 households moved from low HRI to medium or high HRI scores during the course of the programme, demonstrating the significant impact such initiatives had on strengthening long-term resilience amongst disaster-prone communities.

Finally, the UK's development initiatives, most notably its educational programming through the Leave No Girl Behind (LNGB) programme, has demonstrated significant impact, delivering quality educational services to hard-to-reach communities. Between ACTED and IRC, the LNGB programme in Pakistan has ensured such services are well targeted, coordinated with relevant national and local authorities, and delivered at scale to meet the immense educational challenges facing Pakistan.

To what extent is UKAID spending in Pakistan integrated and coordinated with: i) the priorities and commitments of the Government of Pakistan, ii) multilateral, and other bilateral, donors' programmes in Pakistan?

i)

As indicated, the UK's spending portfolio is closely aligned with the various strategic and policy priorities/commitments of the Government of Pakistan, facilitated in part through the latter's direct integration into UK-funded programming at every level. Moreover, the various initiatives funded by the UK over the past four years are closely aligned with the policy priorities of the Government of Pakistan as stated outlined in the Pakistan Vision 2025, National Action Plan, Constitution of Pakistan, and more, with emphasis on equitable and quality service delivery (education, healthcare, water, sanitation, and hygiene), poverty reduction, and the creation and strengthening of robust social safety nets. As the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change globally, the UK's programming has also contributed greatly to Pakistan's strategic prioritization of climate change and adaptation initiatives that seek to ensure the ecological and environmental security of Pakistan for future generations.

ii)

N/A

Focus

How effective is UK aid (both DFID and non-DFID spending) in Pakistan in supporting progress towards achieving the SDGs?

UK aid through DFID/FCDO funding has contributed greatly to the realization of SDGs in Pakistan. Through interventions implemented by ACTED alone, the UK has contributed directly to impacts associated with SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), and 13 (climate action) reaching 1,252,670 households between and across all SDGs identified. A detailed quantitative breakdown of these indicators is below:

Sustainable Development Goal	Households reached
SDG 1 (no poverty)	214,325
SDG 2 (no hunger)	5,000
SDG 3 (good health and well-being)	38,750
SDG 4 (quality education)	5,500
SDG 5 (gender equality)	257,907
SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation)	399,677
SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)	1,249
SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure)	78,979
SDG 13 (climate action)	251,283
Total	1,252,670

SDG snapshots:

SDG 2 (no hunger)

Through the NDC, DFID/FCDO sponsored cash-based programming helped vulnerable disaster-stricken families to purchase food and other essential household items, with over 60% of cash distributed being spent on diversified food items, particularly for groups of special need such as children and pregnant and lactating women. Through post-distribution monitoring (PDM), provision of cash assistance further helped vulnerable households meet basic needs and avoid lend/debt traps that can place disaster-affected communities at yet greater and sustained vulnerability – no household reached through PDM/endline surveys reported taking on more debt as a result of the cash support provided via the NDC. Moreover, in response to COVID-19 and the economic disruptions caused by various containment measures, such assistance provided by ACTED using UK funds contributed greatly to the maintenance and stabilization of critical livelihood activities, both ensuring continued access to food as well as preventing further slippages of vulnerable households into poverty (SDG 1). Beyond cash, the above was also achieved through UK-funded programming through the provision of high-quality agricultural inputs to rural communities, allowing them to engage in regular crop cycles and, thus, maintain household and community food security whilst also contributing to enhanced livelihoods and income generation through heightened productivity and purchasing quality of crop yields.

SDG 3 (good health and well-being)

DFID/FCDO sponsored projects contributed to preventing the spread of COVID-19 in vulnerable communities through the installation of hand washing stations whilst also increasing awareness in targeted areas in order to empower communities with the knowledge and resources needed to take precautionary and potentially life-saving measures. Moreover, following the 2020 floods in Sindh, ACTED, through DFID/FCDO funding, installed 215 hand pumps in affected communities, notably using concrete structures that reduced risks of water contamination. As an indication of the impact the installation of these hand pumps had on target communities, data collected during PDMs found a 21% reduction in waterborne diseases within benefitting communities.

SDG 4 (quality education)

ACTED is currently implementing a 5-year education intervention funded through FCDO under the Leave No Girls Behind (LNGB) initiative of the Girls Education Challenge. Under this programme, ACTED is



delivering an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) as well as a Literacy and Numeracy courses (L&N) to 5,500 vulnerable out of school girls and undereducated young women, with the aim of mainstreaming young girls back into formal educational systems whilst also equipping young women with the educational capacities needed to access independent, dignified, and sustainable income generating opportunities, respectively. Beneficiary selection for this initiative emphasizes those girls from the most vulnerable communities and households, particularly of rural communities and belonging to households engaged in daily wage labour. In recognition of the socio-economic realities facing such households, specific adaptations are built into the learning schedules so as to not unduly interfere with their contributions to household income generating activities, particularly around harvest seasons. Moreover, Technical Vocational Education and Training components are provided for young women graduating from L&N courses so as to build upon these newly gained academic capacities to provide complementary vocational skills that may support their sustainable entry into local labour markets and/or self-employment. In doing so, the project directly seeks to empower such young women towards dignified livelihoods and greater opportunities for economic independence which, along with the well-recorded impacts of women-generated income on food household food security, further lend to impacts across SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 8.

SDG 5 (gender equality)

Throughout all of ACTED's interventions funded by FCDO, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) has represented a core feature, either as a mainstreamed cross-cutting component or, as outlined above, a direct focus of implemented interventions. Through LNGB, aside from the immediate educational impacts, ACTED has integrated robust safeguarding and child protection mechanisms and referral pathways with the aim of ensuring the highest-level of safety and well-being for girls and young women engaged through the project as well as equitable and easy access to those services required to ensure a healthy, productive, and dignified life. Through such support, ACTED, with UK support, has worked with local communities, their leaders, and families of young and adolescent girls engaged in the project to effectively counter harmful practices such as child marriage.

Beyond LNGB, gender as well as other metrics of inclusion – such as disability status and age – play a central role in UK funded interventions implemented by ACTED. For all such initiatives, specific selection criteria is in place to ensure equally and adequate inclusion of such groups, with women, in particular, representing an average of 43% of all beneficiaries reached through such programmes.

SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation)

Aside from the reduction in waterborne disease attributed to the installation of hand pumps, as indicated above, DFID/FCDO funded projects carried out by ACTED contributed greatly to the enhanced access among vulnerable communities to clean water and effective, inclusive, and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities. Most notably, this was accomplished through:

- The installation of clean water points and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities in flood/monsoon-affected communities of Sindh, where 80% of such facilities had been damaged or destroyed;
- The installation of Reverse Osmosis plants in drought-stricken communities across Sindh Province, where high levels of water salinity impacted agricultural productivity and, as a result, both food security and livelihoods of affected communities. Through RO plants, target communities could not only access clean water even in high saline areas, but PDM results indicated that the wait times associated with access to such water was reduced by an average of 20-30 minutes per household;

- To ensure the sustainability of water and sanitation initiatives, through DFID/FCDO funding ACTED trained community-level water management committees (WMC) in the appropriate maintenance and management of facilities as well as key principles associated with water and natural resource management. Following these interventions, 73% of beneficiary communities reported confidence in the capacities of their respective WMCs to operate WASH infrastructure in the long-term.

SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities)

Through DFID/FCDO support, ACTED responded to the 2020 floods in Sindh province through a wide array of multi-sectoral support. Most notably, however, when responding to flooding in the village of Peer Fayyaz Shah, ACTED came across previous beneficiaries who had been provided shelter kits and advanced DRR training as part of a DFID/FCDO funded intervention in 2018. While a significant proportion of houses in the community were either partially or fully destroyed, those that had been supported in 2018 with kits and training had been found to be undamaged in the 2020 flooding. Findings such as these point to the contributions UK aid has had in ensuring the safety and resilience of vulnerable communities in line with their contributions to the realization of SDG 11.

As highlighted above, the UK's country programme in Pakistan has played a significant role in supporting the country down its path towards the realization of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Such impacts, while impressive alone, are further enhanced through close coordination with local, provincial, and national authorities and the various strategic and policy priorities therein outlined above. While Pakistan still has a long way to go to fully realize its commitments to the SDGs, UK investment has, and continues to represent a key contributor to the ultimate success of these initiatives.

To what extent is UKAID in Pakistan focused on the poorest, most marginalized and most vulnerable people in that country?

Pakistan has achieved great success in the roll-out of extensive social safety nets, such as the BISP and EHSAAAS programmes, contributing greatly to a reduction in extreme poverty throughout the country and enhancing the economic resilience of vulnerable populations. However, to date these programmes have typically favoured urban centres where eligible populations have greater access to both the information and services required to access social safety nets. Moreover, in many cases the targeting of these programmes can be influenced by political considerations and interests. As a result, UK aid in Pakistan has been highly targeted towards the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, most notably those not already supported via social safety nets like BISP and EHSAAAS. Within UK-funded interventions carried out by ACTED, robust vulnerability criteria were applied throughout the beneficiary identification and selection phases, encompassing metrics associated with gender, disability status, age, household income, dependency ratios, and more as per the requirements of the specific interventions being initiated. Most notably, through such criteria, 98.6% of all households reached through ACTED-led/UK-funded interventions were those not already supported through various social safety nets in place, due to a combination of both ACTED's own selection criteria as well as basic metrics of vulnerability required for UK programming. Such indicators point directly to the effectiveness of UK aid in Pakistan in targeting and reaching the most vulnerable, hard-to-reach populations in a manner that complements and even strengthens the overall effectiveness of Pakistan's own protective networks and services. Moreover, the effectiveness and transparency with which UK aid seeks to target those populations most in need is well

recognized by the very communities in which UK-funded initiatives are implemented; indeed, ACTED-led programmes funded by DFID/FCDO achieved, on average, a 98% satisfaction rate among beneficiaries and their communities when asked about both the appropriateness and transparency of the selection criteria employed.

Is DFID's strategy for disability inclusive development being well-implemented in Pakistan?

Yes, through DFID/FCDO-funded projects that have been implemented by ACTED in Pakistan, the importance of inclusion of persons living with disabilities (PWDs) has been made abundantly clear, and represents a key feature of the UK's overall emphasis on targeting the most marginalized and vulnerable communities as outlined above. Indeed, disability inclusive development represents a core feature of UK-supported educational initiatives, particularly those under the LNGB framework, ensuring that children with disabilities are assisted in the best and most appropriate manner possible to facilitate their equal access to quality educational services. To do so, unique assistive plans are developed to provide roadmaps towards achieving this objective, resulting in the provision of tailored support to children with disabilities. Moreover, inclusion of persons with disabilities was focused on significantly in both MYHP (pillars 1 and 2) and the BDRP programmes. Specifically, accessibility among PWDs and the elderly was ensured in the construction/rehabilitation of all facilities and infrastructure conducted within the framework of these interventions, with emphasis on ensuring the long-term sustainability of these inclusive features. Moreover, PWDs were also provided, where appropriate, with assistive devices such as hearing and mobility aids, while partners within these consortia also supported the registration of such persons with relevant authorities (i.e. Social Welfare and Women Development Departments) to ensure their inclusion in eligible social safety nets and access to additional livelihood/employment support services provided by the Government of Pakistan. None of the projects implemented by ACTED with UK funding specifically targeted PWD as a primary beneficiary population; however, the unique needs and capacities of this diverse population was duly mainstreamed throughout all of ACTED's UK-funded interventions, with PWDs representing 6% of all beneficiaries reached through such initiatives within the past five years.

Scale

Is the level of the UK's aid spending in Pakistan appropriate in view of relevant factors such as: competing demands; the potential to achieve lasting, cost-effective and scalable impact; Pakistan's commitment to reform and its access to other resources?

UK has achieved significant value for money through the effective coordination and targeting of its many initiatives in the Country. However, Pakistan, along with much of the world, is entering a period of great uncertainty in the years to come; COVID-19 continues to disrupt economic, social, and political systems, while successive 'waves' contribute to dramatically increased mortality rates as Pakistan struggles to access an adequate vaccine supply; intensifying climate change contributes to more frequent and stronger environmental catastrophes, with many of the most vulnerable populations experiencing multiple and often overlapping crises without adequate support. While the Government of Pakistan has done an extremely commendable job improving its own internal capacities to meet these challenges, significant international support to complement these efforts remains a persistent reality. Difficult decisions will be

necessary, and the global economic recession facilitated by the COVID-19 pandemic will, and has, resulted in lower levels of aid to countries such as Pakistan than in years prior.

The UK has demonstrated an acute understanding of this reality, with a shifting focus towards longer-term, higher-impact investments in areas such as education and resilience-building that offer great value for money and opportunities for scale-up. Despite this, reductions in aid spending to Pakistan by major donors, including the UK, run the risk of impeding progress made towards strengthening the internal resilience and systems needed to appropriately and effectively respond to many and various challenges facing the Country. In doing so, the ultimate impacts will be felt on those communities already vulnerable to existing and future shocks, especially those related to ever intensifying climate change.

Delivery

How effective are the partners (NGOs, private contractors and multilateral agencies) through which UKAID is delivered in Pakistan?

Over the past five years, the UK has engaged a diverse network of partners on its various programmes, bringing with them a rich portfolio of complimentary capacities that strengthen the overall coordination and results of their interventions. This is demonstrated best in both the MYHP and BDRP programmes, which consisted of consortia comprising of UN agencies, international NGOs, and national NGOs all working together. Through these various consortia, delivery was timely and effective. External evaluations of these various interventions and the consortia that implemented them resulted in top marks, ultimately emphasizing the effectiveness with which the UK has selected its various partnerships in Pakistan. As mentioned above, upon completion of the BDRP programme in Pakistan, an external evaluation of the intervention found that the 39%, 33%, and 29% of households engaged were found in the low, medium, and high HRI categories, respectively, in contrast to 78%, 18% and 4% at the time of baseline. Moreover, with a net value of 287,491 households graduating from low HRI to medium or high HRI, the evaluator awarded the programme and its constituent members – Concern Worldwide (lead), ACTED, IRC, and Welthungerhilfe – marks of “outstanding performance” in the areas of progress towards results, programme effectiveness, programme efficiency, and programme impact. Through effective selection of partners, such as that described above, the UK not only ensure the greatest possible impact per investment, but also contributes to more cohesive and coordinated programming across its various initiatives.

What are the key risks (and mitigations) to the value for money, effectiveness, and impact of UKAID projects and programmes in Pakistan?

One key risk for the value for money (VFM) of UK projects and programmes in Pakistan is climate change. Representing one of the most climactically impacted countries in the world, Pakistan is undergoing increasingly rapid changes to its environment, with such changes ultimately threatening the longer-term impacts of various areas of UK intervention throughout the country. Most notably, this is observed in investments on immediate humanitarian response to an array of natural disasters – without adequate, local-level preparedness and capacities to mitigate and respond to such disasters, humanitarian practitioners and funders will, and have, found themselves responding the same disasters and in the same

communities on a cyclical basis. Beyond simple value-for-money, this also represents a major risk to the ultimate effectiveness and impact of such interventions funded by the UK as, if implemented in isolation of other complementary initiatives, they simply address the immediate symptoms while the deeper natural and/or systemic challenges driving these disasters remain unaffected (e.g. climate change). To mitigate this, greater focus on the underlying factors which contribute to such levels of perpetual vulnerability needs to be better integrated into humanitarian programming. The UK has demonstrated a recognition of this, and has indicated a strategic shift away from funding immediate humanitarian response rather towards supporting longer-term resilience initiatives that strengthen local capacities to independently respond to and mitigate such disasters before they strike.

With the shift towards resilience-oriented programming, another risk associated with VFM, effectiveness and impact relates to the relative brevity of such programmes. While BDRP spanned a period of four years, upon final evaluation one of the main complaints among target communities was related to a desire that the programme had lasted longer. In this sense, it represents a risk to the long-term effectiveness of UK investments in this field. Moreover, as indicated above, the needs of disaster-prone communities are often varied and overlapping while, by nature, sustainable resilience building requires long-term investments to truly capacitate the internal systems required to effectively and sustainably respond to such crises independently. While the impacts recorded under BDRP to date represent considerable achievements, gaps persist nonetheless that require continued attention, energy, and resources alongside enhanced coordination and greater stakeholder buy-in to truly address. To mitigate, the UK could commit to longer investments via its various programmes, or ensure that those follow-up programmes that are initiated adequately incorporate those reached through previous initiatives to build on previous successes in hot spot areas.

Safeguarding

What are the main safeguarding challenges for aid delivery in Pakistan and how well are these being addressed in UKAID projects and programmes?

Within the framework of UK-supported educational programming, namely through the LNGB initiative, traditional practices and gender norms represent key safeguarding challenges for effective aid delivery. Particularly in rural areas, such gendered dynamics can pose significant safeguarding risks to girls and young women in their efforts to access basic educational services. In response, the UK has very clearly articulated a zero tolerance policy with regards to safeguarding matters, with partners required to demonstrate the highest level of adherence to such principles and not only national, but global policies in systems in place to ensure their capacity to meet the standards expected by the UK. In this regard, the UK's support has been instrumental in developing thorough institutional understandings of these principles and the mechanisms through which they are mitigated among their various partners and beyond.

Performance

What has UKAID achieved in Pakistan: in the last five years?; Since 1997?

UK aid in Pakistan has responded to a wide variety of humanitarian and developmental needs, emphasizing effective targeting of those most vulnerable and not already covered by existing support programmes, and strengthening local capacities for sustainable growth and independent disaster response in future. Throughout various disasters – including the 2005 earthquake that killed 75,000 and displaced millions, or the 2010 floods that affected 70% of the country – UK aid has played a prominent role in the relief, rehabilitation, and later development of affected communities throughout the Country. Through ACTED alone, the UK has reached 994,763¹ households since 2005 through:

- Community infrastructure (78,979 households);
- Disaster Risk Reduction (108,426 households);
- Climate Change and Adaptation/Preparedness (142,857 households);
- Education (5,500 households);
- Food Security and Livelihoods (136,803 households);
- Health (38,750 households);
- Non-Food Items (37,035 households);
- Shelter (46,736 households);
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (388,132 households).

As outlined above, through programs such as BDRP, the UK contributed significantly to large scale increases in household resilience (287,491 households graduating from low HRI to medium or high HRI), strengthening longer-term capacities to respond to and mitigate against future disasters that may affect these already vulnerable communities. Moreover, through its investments in areas such as education, the UK has contributed greatly to the realization of the Government of Pakistan’s own strategic and policy priorities, in turn positively reflecting on SDG indicators in the process.

Are there adequate processes of independent evaluation and self-evaluation built into the country programme?

The UK has engaged third party monitoring to assess the quality and transparency of their various programmes throughout implementation, besides other manifold processes built into these programmes to ensure VFM, feedback mechanisms, and more. Annually, consortia funded by the UK were/are required to review learnings and identify how they will be integrated into future annual plans. However, there is always room for greater reflection on lessons learned, and exposure of partners to similar experiences from similar environments across the UK’s various programmes could represent a useful step in that direction.

¹ This number does not count for those households included under SDG 5 (gender equality) as this is a cross-cutting component mainstreamed through all ACTED interventions, including those funded by UK.