

I Rank

International Development Group Strategic Plan 2012–2015: Development that Delivers

This Government Department Strategy [GDS076]

39
out of 134

Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade **1**
out of 9 in this department

Sector
External Sector **2**
out of 12 in this sector

II About the strategy

Date published	2012 September
Signed by a minister	Not signed
Duration	36 months
Number of pages	25

The approach: How does the department plan to use the broader environment in which it exists (element 1) to leverage its strengths and embrace its weaknesses (element 2) so that it can provide benefits in accordance with its vision (element 3)?

The approach is to set medium-term goals to be utilised by MFAT (with partners) in order to deliver on 25 programmes that aim to increase sustainable economic development in selected countries.

Read more about the GDS's vision on page 4.
Is the strategy illustrated? Yes, see page 2.

III Assessing stakeholder usefulness

If a public servant new to the policy area had an hour to read this GDS, would they be able to understand the approach (element 4) and the implementation and review processes (element 5)?

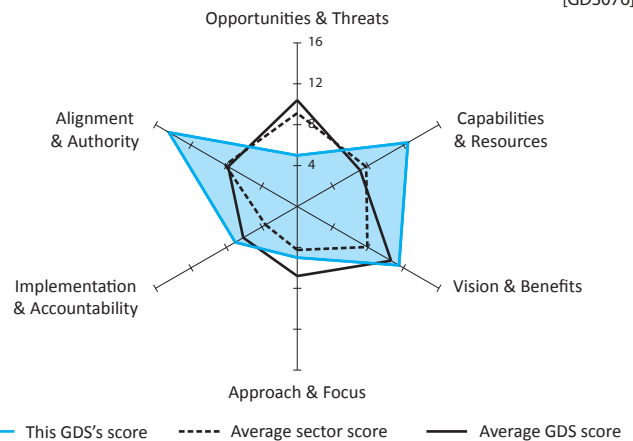
The key points of the issue and outcomes sought are reasonably informative. The GDS discusses how it links with MFAT's strategic priorities set out in its statement of intent. In order to understand how the outcomes sought will be achieved, there needs to be clearer identification of strategic objectives and implementation plans.

If an uninformed member of the public had 30 minutes to read this GDS, would they be able to understand the purpose (element 3), the approach (element 4), the implementation and review processes (element 5) and how this approach fits with the broader goals of government (element 6)?

The overall purpose is clear, but the strategic outcomes are not. The strategy is primarily intended for internal use at MFAT. The GDS discusses the need to finish and operationalise its review framework. This is necessary as in the GDS there is brief discussion of success measures, but this needs more information regarding process.

IV The radar chart

[GDS076]



V The scorecard

Elements 1–6	Score	Rank/134
1 Opportunities and Threats What is the external environment?	5	127
1.1 Does it identify opportunities going forward?	3/4	33
1.2 Does it identify threats going forward?	0/4	124
1.3 Does it contain a clear statement describing the problem that this strategy is trying to solve?	2/8	125
2 Capabilities and Resources What are the internal strengths and weaknesses?	12.5	12
2.1 Does it identify current and future capabilities (e.g. skills, partnerships/relationships)?	3/4	36
2.2 Does it identify what capabilities it does not have and needs to acquire or work around?	2.5/4	45
2.3 Does it identify current and future resources (e.g. financial)?	4/4	1
2.4 Does it identify what resources it does not have and needs to acquire or work around?	3/4	14
3 Vision and Benefits What is the purpose?	11.5	47
3.1 Does it provide a clear vision as to what success would look like (a desired future condition)?	5/8	73
3.2 Does it identify who the beneficiaries are and how they will benefit?	3/4	47
3.3 Does it describe how success will be measured and over what time frame?	3.5/4	23
4 Approach and Focus What choices and trade-offs have been made?	5	99
4.1 Does it break down the vision into a number of strategic goals/objectives that are tangible, specific and different from each other?	2.5/4	94
4.2 Does it identify a range of strategic approaches to solve the problem?	0.5/4	91
4.3 Does it clearly describe the chosen approach, outlining what it will and will not do? See 'the approach' in part II.	1/4	89
4.4 Does it highlight the risks, costs and benefits of the chosen pathway/approach (e.g. possible unintended consequences)?	1/4	18
5 Implementation and Accountability Who is responsible for what?	7	47
5.1 Does it identify who is responsible for implementing the GDS?	1/4	120
5.2 Does it identify who will report on its progress?	3/4	21
5.3 Does it explain how progress will be reported (e.g. reports and statistics) and over what time frames?	3/4	26
5.4 Does it discuss whether the GDS will undergo a final review once it is completed, updated or expired?	0/4	49
6 Alignment and Authority How does it align with the machinery of government?	14.5	11
6.1 Does it discuss predecessors to the strategy and identify any lessons learnt from these?	2.5/4	52
6.2 Does it align with its department's SOI?	4/4	1
6.3 Does it align with its department's 4YP?	4/4	1
6.4 Does it align with its department's annual report?	4/4	1
Total	55.5/96	39