

## Additional Information: Staff survey results

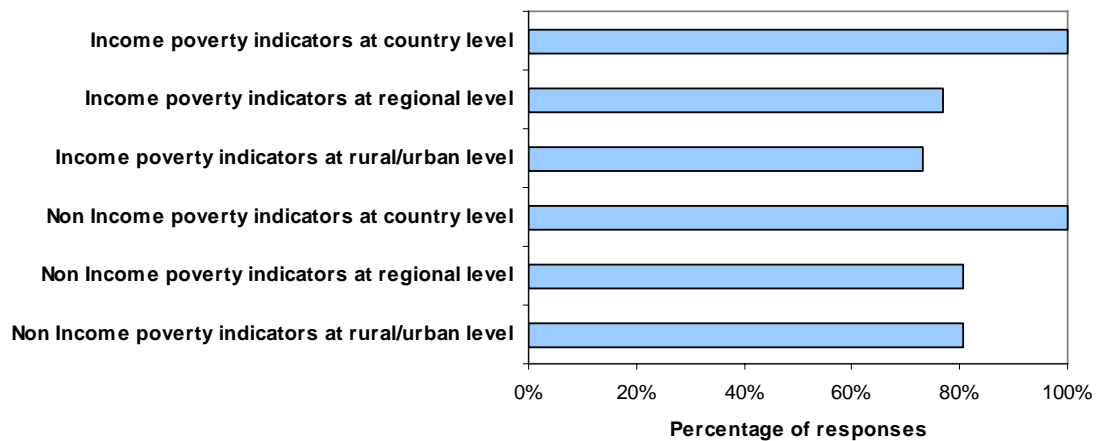
We surveyed all twenty-five of the Department's country offices in PSA countries plus the Africa and Asia Regional teams. We received 26 responses – a response rate of 96 per cent. This annex to the report summarises these responses. Where net results are given this is calculated as the total percentage of responses agreeing with the given statement, less the total percentage of responses disagreeing. This therefore excludes responses which have no opinion.

### Assessing needs

Almost all respondents considered it important to monitor rural poverty and none considered it unimportant.

### Indicators used to monitor rural poverty

All respondents monitor income poverty and non-income poverty at the country level. Rural/urban income poverty is monitored by 73 per cent of respondents, compared to non-income poverty at the rural/urban level which is monitored by 81 per cent of respondents.



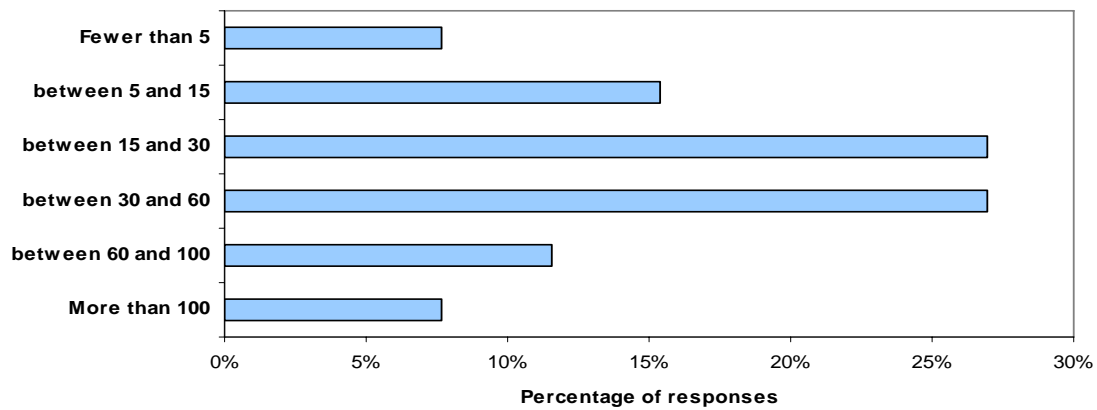
### Methods used to monitor rural poverty

Results of national surveys are considered by country teams to be the most important method for assessing the needs of the rural poor. This choice is ranked first or second by 88 per cent of respondents. Recipient government planning and review documentation is the next most popular method being ranked in either first or second place by 62 per cent of respondents.

Contact with government officials is ranked lowest. It is put in fourth place or lower by 65 per cent of respondents. Contact with civil society organisations, other donors and other partners is also used.

### Total visits made by all country staff to rural areas as part of their work within the last year

Most country teams made between 15 and 60 visits to rural areas within the last year. Fewer than five visits to rural areas were made by 8 per cent of respondents, with a similar number making over 100 visits.

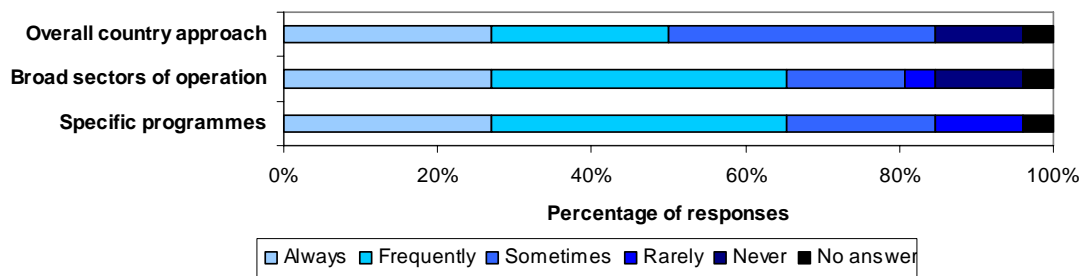


### Focus of country team

The vast majority (92 per cent) of country teams consider it either important or very important to target assistance to rural areas in order to meet the MDGs in country.

### Planning on a geographical basis

A quarter of country teams always plan on a geographical basis for the overall country approach, the broad sectors of operation and specific programmes. A further 38 per cent frequently plan the broad sectors of operations and specific programmes on a geographical basis.



### Sectors important for tackling rural poverty

Agriculture and rural livelihoods is considered to be the most important sector for tackling rural poverty, being ranked first by 35 per cent of respondents. Governance and economic policy follow closely behind, being ranked first by 27 and 23 per cent of respondents respectively.

Education is considered less important being ranked fourth or lower by 58 per cent of respondents.

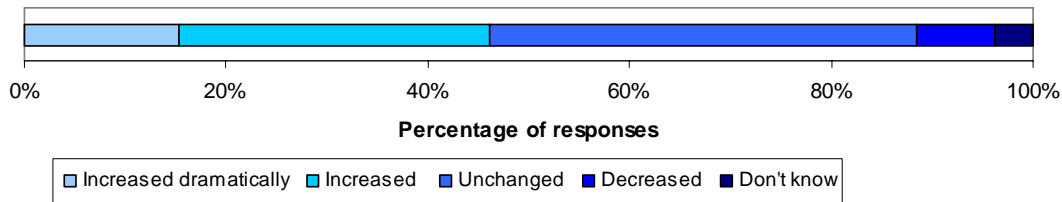
The health and nutrition, social protection and infrastructure and transport sectors were ranked slightly higher than education. Some respondents preferred to rank several options jointly, indicating that the sectors are complementary.

### Current country programme focus

A third of respondents focus mainly on rural issues but also address non rural issues. A further 4 per cent focus predominantly on rural issues. Slightly more (42 per cent) give equal weight to rural and non rural issues. A minority (15 per cent) focus mainly on non rural issues.

### Change in country programme focus over the past five years with regard to alleviating rural poverty

Almost half of country teams consider that the focus on rural poverty has increased. A similar proportion (42 per cent) consider that there has been no change and a small minority (8 per cent) consider that there has been a decrease in the focus on rural poverty.



### Major barriers to effectiveness in efforts to achieve poverty reduction

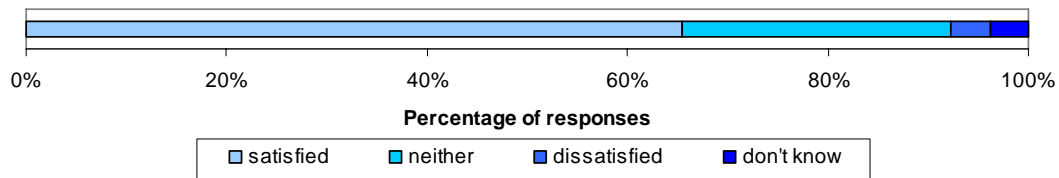
The capacity of local government institutions and the adequacy of trained staff in rural areas are considered to be the greatest barriers to poverty reduction, being mentioned by all country teams and being ranked in first or second place by 73 per cent and 62 per cent of respondents respectively. Inaccessibility is the next most significant factor, cited by 88 per cent of respondents, most commonly in either second or third place.

Other factors included finding appropriate implementing partners (most often ranked third or fifth), high unit costs (ranked fourth by 31 per cent of country teams) and difficulties in monitoring.

Some respondents preferred to rank several options jointly, indicating that several factors are equally important.

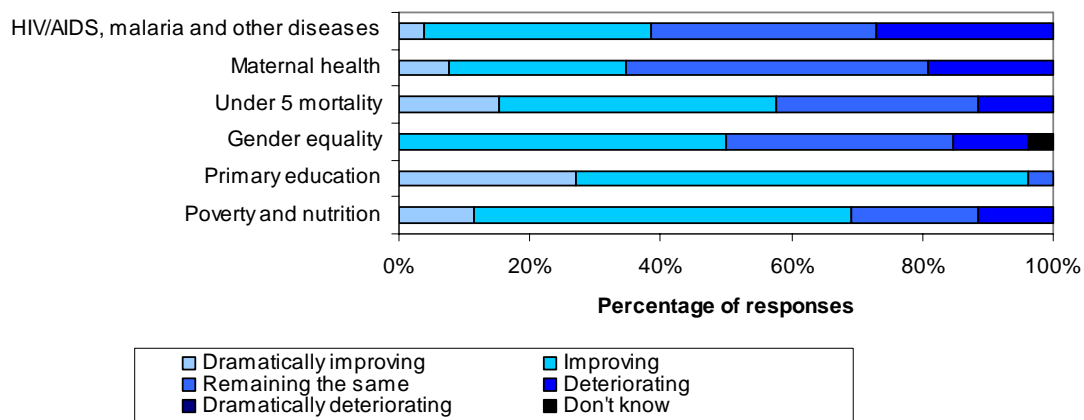
### Assessing impact

The net satisfaction of country teams regarding the impact of DFID's activities on rural poverty is 61 per cent (65 per cent satisfied, 4 per cent dissatisfied).



### The change in rural poverty incidence in country over the last five years

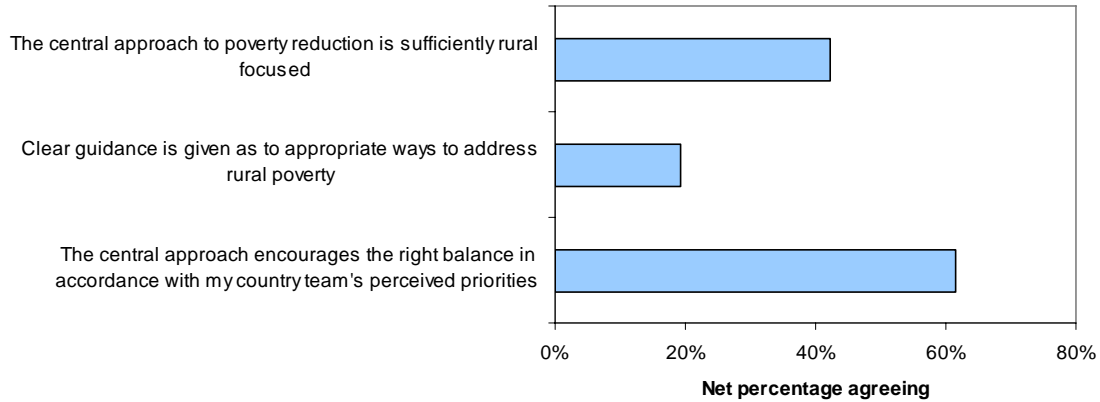
Almost all respondents (96 per cent) consider that primary education is improving. Poverty and nutrition is considered by 69 per cent of respondents to be improving. Country teams are least optimistic about HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, where 27 per cent describe the situation as deteriorating, and maternal health, with 65 per cent describing the situation as the same or worse.



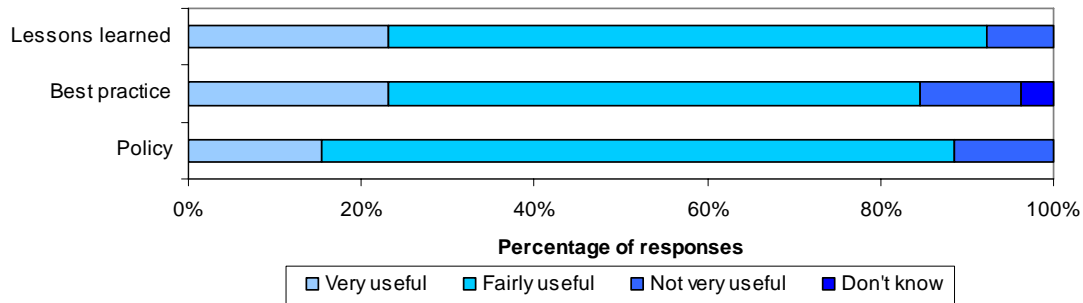
## Relationship with DFID headquarters

### Views on the central approach and guidance given

Although a net proportion of 62 per cent of respondents consider the central approach encourages the right balance, this reduces to 42 per cent regarding the rural focus and only one in five country teams consider that clear guidance is given on ways to address rural poverty.



### Usefulness of information received by country teams from headquarters



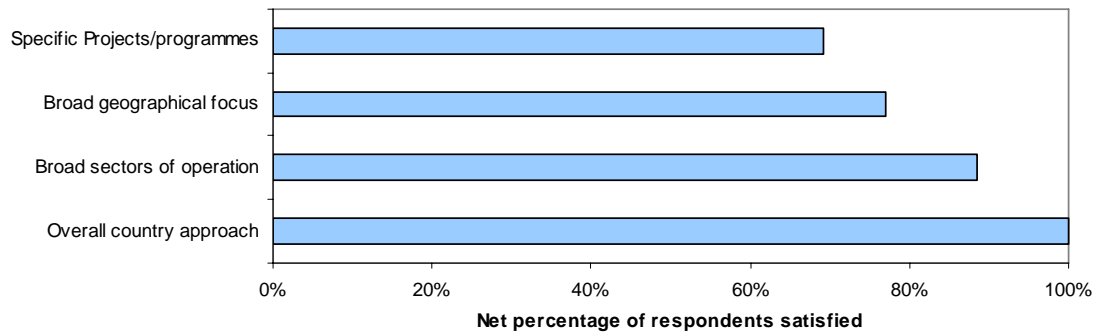
### Frequency of use of DFID supported systems for information on rural issues

Of the three information systems, ID21 (a website database) is consulted most often, with over half (54 per cent) of respondents using it quarterly or more frequently. This compares to the global donor platform for rural development which half of country teams never consult. The Livelihoods connect system is most widely if infrequently used, with 85 per cent consulting it at some point.

## Relationship with other donors

### Satisfaction with the country team's knowledge of other leading donors' priorities and expenditures in country

Country teams are generally satisfied with their knowledge of other donors' activities. This ranges from 69 per cent net satisfaction rating of specific projects/programmes to 100 per cent net satisfaction rating with their knowledge of other donors' overall country approach.

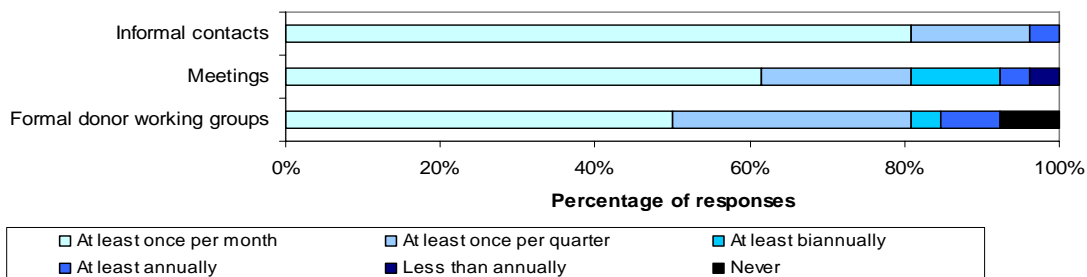


### Satisfaction with the degree of coordination with leading international donors

Net satisfaction with coordination overall is 62 per cent but falls to 46 per cent for coordination on rural issues.

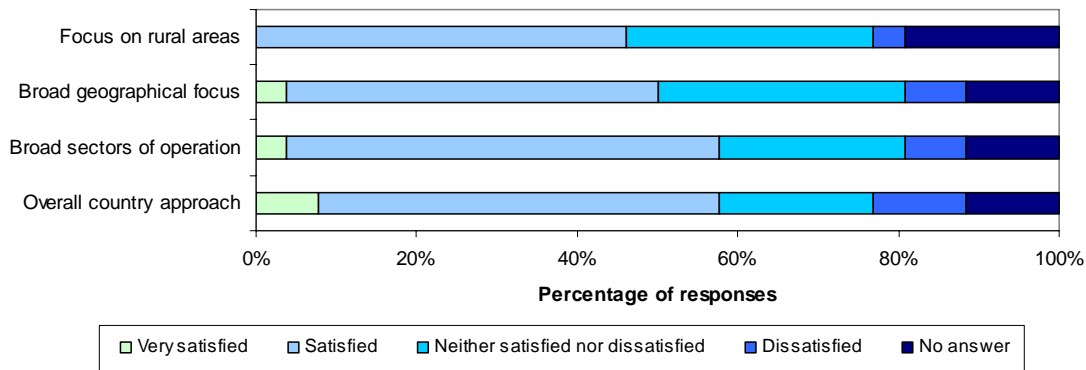
### Frequency of methods coordination of the country team with other donors on rural issues

Informal contacts are the most frequent method of coordination with 96 per cent of respondents using this method at least once per quarter. Formal donor working groups are used least often although this still equates to 81 per cent of country teams using this method at least once per quarter.



### Satisfaction that the focus of other leading donors is effective in reducing poverty

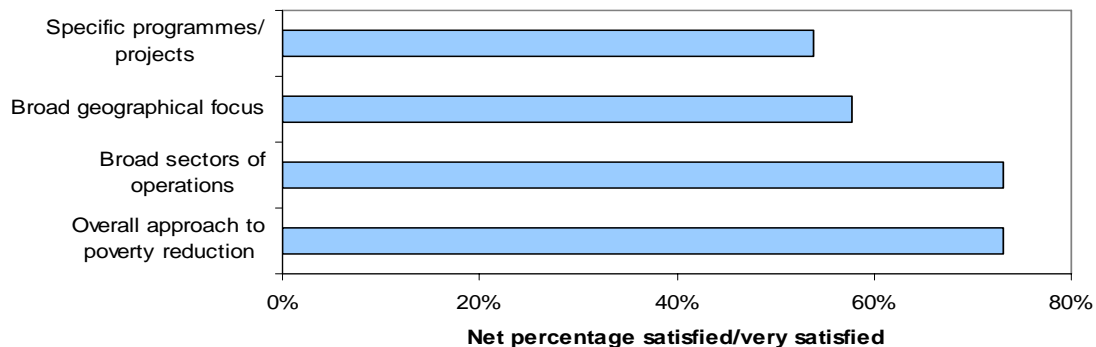
Net satisfaction levels range from 42 per cent (46 per cent satisfied, 4 per cent dissatisfied) for the focus on rural areas and the broad geographical focus (50 per cent satisfied, 8 per cent dissatisfied) to 50 per cent (58 per cent satisfied, 8 per cent dissatisfied) for the broad sectors of operations. A large minority are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.



### Relationship with government

#### Satisfaction with the country team's knowledge of the host government's priorities and expenditure

Net satisfaction is 73 per cent, with the country team's knowledge of the host government's overall approach to poverty reduction and its broad sectors of operation. This compares to 58 per cent and 54 per cent net satisfaction with knowledge of its broad geographical focus and its specific programmes/projects respectively.



#### Satisfaction with the degree of coordination with government

Net satisfaction with coordination is 50 per cent overall but only 27 per cent on rural issues.

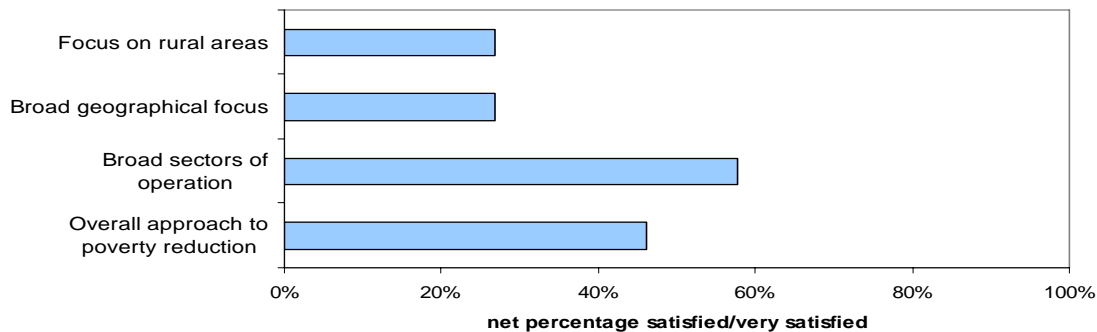
### Frequency of methods of coordination of the country team with government on rural issues

Coordination with the Ministry of Finance or Planning and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources or similar is at least biannual for 65 per cent and 73 per cent of country teams respectively. Formal donor working groups and other line ministries are used by 65 per cent of country teams at least once per quarter, although 12 per cent of country teams never coordinate via formal donor working groups. Almost a quarter of country teams (23 per cent) coordinate with local government less than annually.

### Satisfaction that the focus of government is appropriate

Net satisfaction with the focus of government is highest for the broad sectors of operation at 58 per cent and half this level (27 per cent) for the focus on rural areas and the broad geographical focus. Net satisfaction with the overall approach to poverty reduction is 46 per cent.

In all cases, a large minority (between 15 per cent and 35 per cent) of country teams are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

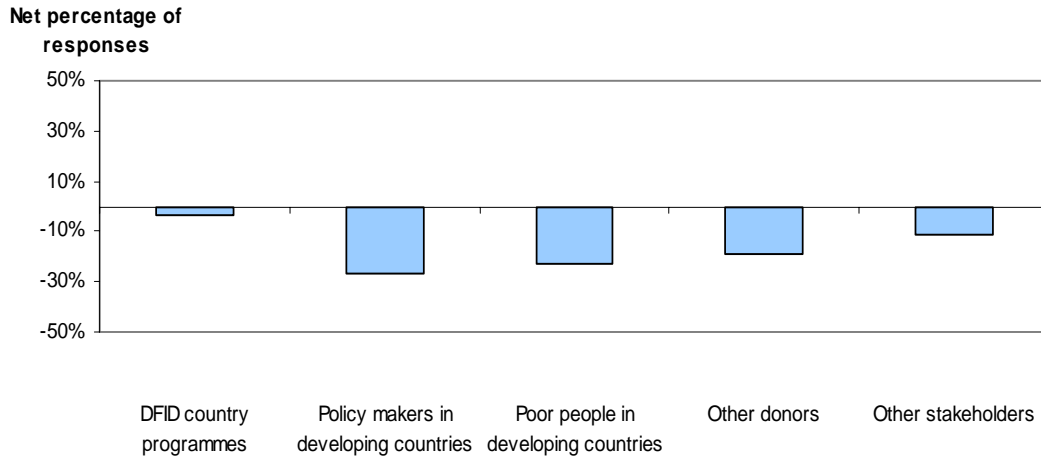


## Research

### Satisfaction with the Central Research Department's efforts to disseminate research findings

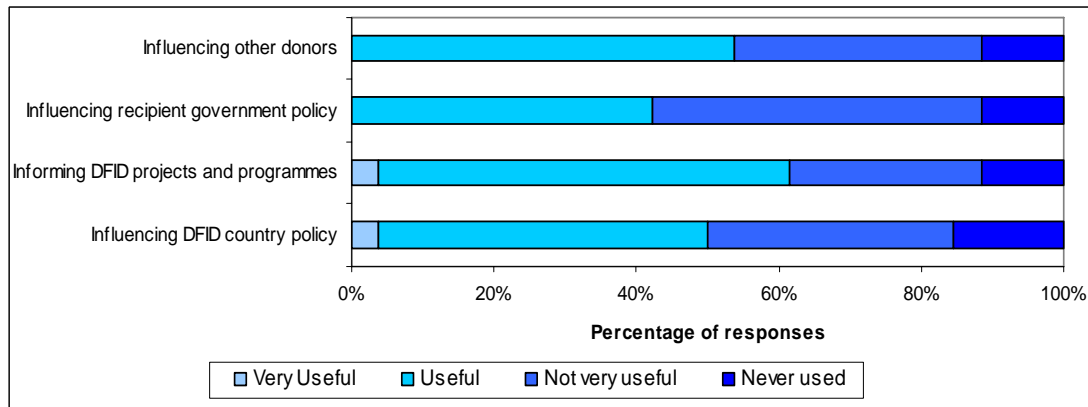
A large proportion of country teams have no knowledge or experience of the Central Research Department's dissemination of research to particular stakeholders. This ranged from 38 per cent (DFID country programmes) to 77 per cent (other stakeholders). A net proportion of 27 per cent expressed dissatisfaction (35 per cent dissatisfied compared to 8 per cent satisfied) with the Central Research Department's efforts to disseminate research findings to policy makers in developing countries.





### Usefulness of DFID-funded research

Country teams find that DFID-funded research is most useful for informing DFID projects and programmes with 62 per cent considering it to be useful or very useful. A consistent minority (12 per cent-15 per cent) never use DFID research.

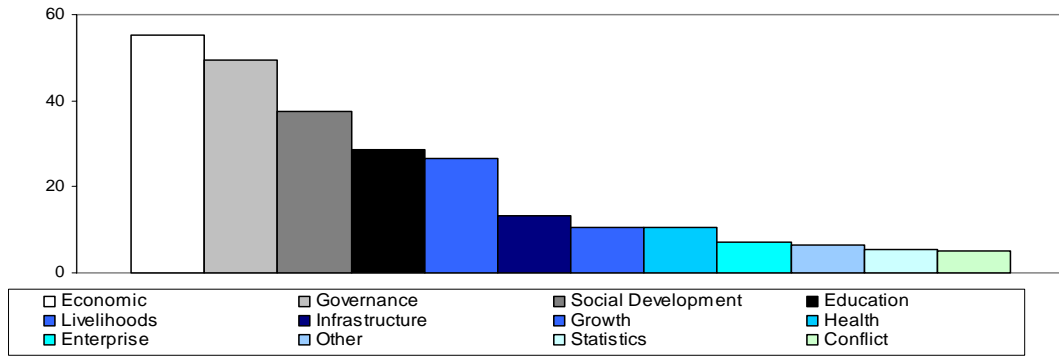


### Skills

Overall, country teams expressed 54 per cent net satisfaction that their teams are adequately skilled.

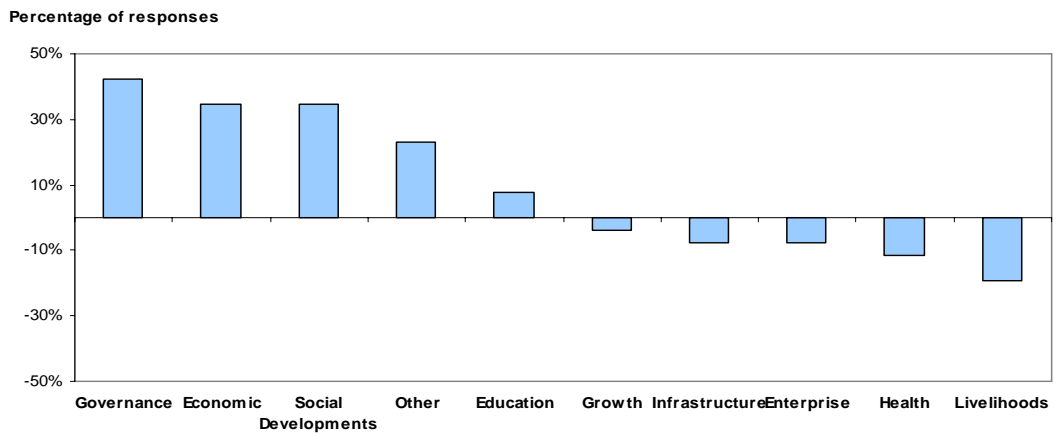
### Number of programme staff in advisory roles in country offices

There are a total of 55.25 whole time equivalent economic advisers in country teams responding to the survey. This is more than twice as many as the number of livelihoods advisers (26.6).



### Change in the skills mix over the past five years

The greatest decrease has been in Livelihoods advisers with a net proportion of 19 per cent of country teams stating that the number of Livelihoods advisers has decreased.



### Anticipated change in the need for advisory roles over the next five years

A net proportion of 23 per cent of country teams expect the number of economic adviser roles to decrease compared to a net 19 per cent which expect the number of livelihoods advisers to decline. Overall, country teams do not expect the number of Health, Education or Enterprise advisory roles to change.

DFID: Tackling Rural Poverty in Developing Countries  
A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Published March 2007.

