Does aid reach those in need?

Australia’s aid program has comprehensive accountability mechanisms, is well targeted and is an effective and cooperative partner with other countries.

Aid is focused on some of the most challenging issues in the poorest countries – therefore the impact of aid can sometimes be affected by problems such as poor governance, vested interests and corruption. Despite this, in the poorest countries the impact of aid is still significant.

In the poorest countries, aid has helped cut extreme poverty by 20% and child mortality by 30%.

Aid is a hand up, not a hand out

Aid programs today are focused on making sure there is sustainable, lasting change. In fact, countries such as South Korea, Brazil, China and Thailand have gone from receiving aid to giving aid.

The Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, Australia and other members of the UN committed to the Millennium Declaration and a set of ambitious goals to halve hunger and extreme poverty in all forms by 2015. Overseas aid has helped progress many of these goals, although there is still work to be done.

Is aid effective?

Yes! Australians can be proud of the good work our aid program is doing and what’s being achieved in their name. They can have confidence their aid dollars are being put to good use.

World Vision estimates that in the last year (2011/12) Australia’s aid dollars:

- saved the lives of at least 300,000 people;
- helped provide basic education for 500,000 children and improved education quality for many more;
- helped tens of thousands of farmers improve their productivity;
- trained thousands of public servants to improve their management of budgets and the services they offer their communities;
- maintained thousands of kilometres of roads as well as other key infrastructure;
- assisted at least 10 million people affected by disasters; and
- helped 400,000 people gain access to clean water and 400,000 people to access adequate sanitation.

If Australia meets its aid commitments over the next four years Australia’s aid program will:

- prevent the deaths of around 1 million people, including 500,000 children;
- allow another 4 million children to go to school; and
- improve the productivity of around 1 million farmers.

Aid is a proven, critical part of helping to reduce poverty and improve the lives of the world’s poor. "The assistance of government aid, children like Kewal can make in the fight against global poverty..." (World Vision)

Australian aid means education for more children

After his mother died when he was four, Kewal of Darjeeling, India, was forced by poverty to leave school and take up work to support his family’s income.

A widower and sole guardian of Kewal and his brother, Kewal’s father explained that “My school was too far, I was down and out financially and the loss of my wife was too big a challenge for me to take care of all the work of the two sons.”

Thanks to funding from Canadian Government aid, World Vision established the Darjeeling Right to Childhood Program in 2008. It provided Kewal the opportunity to attend school.

Through aid, Kewal was not only given an education, but provided with financial support for his school fees, which was “very helpful”, said his father.

It is vital that Australia continues to provide a generous, effective and accountable aid program and that our political leaders commit full bipartisan support to a sustainable scale-up of overseas aid.

To get involved in World Vision’s work to protect and grow aid, visit worldvision.com.au/return

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See the Bigger Picture

Aid Works!

A quick guide to understanding Australia’s overseas aid contribution

Aid Works
AUSTRALIA’S OVERSEAS AID CONTRIBUTION

Global poverty is one of the most pressing challenges facing our world today. The good news is there has been significant progress in poverty reduction in the last decade. Globally, child deaths have declined from over 12 million in 1990, to less than 7 million in 2010. Overseas aid has played a large part in this success.

Governments internationally give aid – or Official Development Assistance (ODA) – in order to help poorer nations out of poverty. AusAID is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia’s overseas aid program, reporting directly to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Over the last decade, Australian aid alone has helped lift many out of poverty. Australia’s overseas aid program is overseen by Parliament and is reported to the Australian Parliament annually, reporting directly to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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The majority of Australia’s aid money (75%) is spent in our own neighbourhood – in Asia and the Pacific.

Where does Australia give aid?

Australia’s aid is used to:

- Improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation.
- Provide agricultural training, and respond to famine and natural disasters.
- Train more health workers.
- Educate hundreds of thousands of children.
- Improve access to primary health care, reducing disease.
- Support long-term development programs, as well as emergency relief work.

Types of Aid

Aid is given in the form of: Bilateral Aid: Aid given by one government to another. Multilateral Aid: Aid given by a donor government through international agencies, such as the World Bank, World Health Organization or World Food Programme.

Government Aid

Aid given by one government to another. Bilateral aid is usually the largest share of the country’s aid.

Multilateral Aid

Aid given by a donor government through international agencies, such as the World Bank, World Health Organization or World Food Programme.

Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Aid

Aid that is raised by organisations like World Vision, Oxfam or WaterAid, and channelled directly to communities in other countries. NGOs also receive a small share of the government’s aid to carry out projects approved by the funding agency.

Aid distributed through NGOs is very important as it often reaches the poorest and most marginalised people; however, it cannot replace government assistance.

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Summary of global progress against the MDGs

Global progress against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is measured by a series of global targets. These are not limited to developing countries, but are a call to action for rich and poor alike. All countries have a role to play in achieving the MDGs – and can help end extreme poverty and hunger.

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