



2019 ANNUAL AID EVALUATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This 2019 Annual Aid Evaluation Plan produced by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) outlines the independent evaluations of aid funding which DFAT plans to complete and publish in 2019.

The Annual Aid Evaluation Plan is a key part of DFAT's [Aid Evaluation Policy](#), which was introduced in November 2016. The Policy emphasises that evaluations should be commissioned and conducted to maximise the use of evaluation findings and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the aid program.

This Annual Aid Evaluation Plan has been endorsed by DFAT's [Independent Evaluation Committee](#) and approved by the Secretary of DFAT.

The Annual Aid Evaluation Plan is in two parts. The first part outlines the strategic evaluations which will be undertaken by the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE). The second part outlines program evaluations which will be commissioned by DFAT's country, regional and thematic aid programs.

STRATEGIC EVALUATIONS

Strategic evaluations are assessments of Australian aid that focus on key policy directions, specific development themes and sectors, or large programs. These evaluations are initiated, managed and conducted by ODE. They typically examine a number of investments, often across multiple countries, regions or sectors. By virtue of their scope, strategic evaluations tend to be time and resource intensive.

Strategic evaluations provide independent oversight of Australian aid. They inform change in both strategy setting and operational practice and they assist in identifying new and innovative ways to deliver aid.

The following principles guide the selection of evaluation topics:

- » **Policy relevance:** assessing progress on implementation of the Australian Government's policy priorities, including the Foreign Policy White Paper.
- » **Potential learning benefits:** focusing on areas where there is a strong demand for insight, information or guidance within DFAT or contributing to global knowledge.
- » **Coverage and materiality:** over time, ODE's evaluations should provide appropriate coverage of expenditure by sector, theme, country and region.
- » **Risks to aid effectiveness:** examination of issues which pose a challenge to the Australian aid program and its reputation.

As outlined in Table 1, four strategic evaluations are expected to be published in 2019.

Table 1: Strategic evaluations

Topics - to publish in 2019
Health support to the Pacific
Ending violence against women and girls
Global Programs - Multilateral Organisations
Technical and vocational education and training



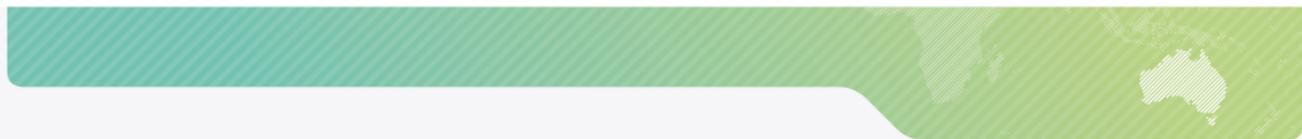
PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

DFAT country, regional and thematic aid programs are required to identify, prioritise and complete a reasonable number of independent evaluations per year. These ‘program evaluations’ focus on the highest priority issues facing each program. Larger programs are generally expected to complete a higher number of evaluations.

As outlined in Table 2, 44 program evaluations are expected to be published in 2019. All program evaluations will include a management response which will be completed by the relevant DFAT program. Some programs will not publish any evaluations in 2019, but will be expected to undertake evaluations in 2020 and beyond.

Table 2: Program Evaluations to be published in 2019

Program	Recommended Minimum no. of Evaluations	Planned evaluations
PACIFIC: 16 evaluations		
PNG	5	1) Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct Evaluation Demonstrate results, improve the existing investment and examine value for money.
		2) Institutional Partnership Program Review Demonstrate results and improve existing investment.
		3) Evaluation of youth programs This cluster evaluation will assess progress on the pilot projects and inform the new design of youth programs.
		4) Church Partnerships Program Evaluation Assess results, improve existing investment and examine value for money.
		5) Disaster Risk Reduction Program evaluation The purpose of the evaluation is to demonstrate results, improve existing investment or sector, examine value for money and inform new design.
Pacific Regional	3	1) Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) Mid-Term Review The evaluation reviews the implementation of PASAI's 2014-24 Strategic Plan.
		2) Independent evaluation of the Pacific Connect Pilot Assess progress to inform future direction including operating model and DFAT's consideration of program continuation beyond the pilot phase.
		3) Six year Pacific Women Evaluation Review the first six years of program implementation and provide guidance for the design of a potential new program.
Solomon Islands	2	1) Skills for Economic Growth Mid-Term Review Inform the next phase of Australia's support to the TVET sector.
		2) Solomon Islands Justice Program Mid-Term Review Assess results achieved so far to enable continuous improvement.
Fiji	2	1) Fiji Program Support Facility Mid-Term Review The review will verify and assess performance of the Facility which has been in operating since July 2016.
		2) Institutional Partnerships Program (IPP) end of program evaluation Verify performance results and provide evidence and recommendations to support new program design.
Vanuatu	1	1) Mid-term review of the Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program Assess relevance and effectiveness and to inform implementation/extension beyond December 2020 or redesign.
Tonga	1 every 2-3 years	1) Evaluation of the Tonga Health Systems Support Program Review performance and document results, inform management of the remainder of the existing investment and inform future health sector support.

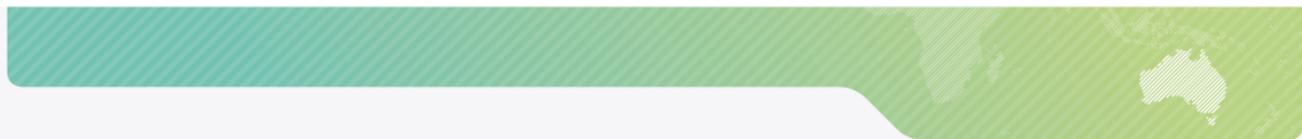


		<p>2) Mid-term Evaluation of the Tropical Cyclone Gita Response and Recovery Package</p> <p>Inform further management of the package, shape advocacy for recovery, disaster risk management and preparedness efforts and review and document lessons learned for future Australian humanitarian responses in both Tonga and the broader Pacific region</p>
Kiribati	1 every 2-3 years	<p>1) Australia Awards Scholarships and Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships: Kiribati 2014-2018</p> <p>Inform the design of a new approach to scholarship administration and management in Kiribati, improve current arrangements in the interim and inform future policy and programming.</p>

SOUTH EAST ASIA: 14 evaluations

		<p>1) MAMPU Independent Strategic Review</p> <p>This review will identify opportunities and challenges for future investment in gender equality and women’s empowerment</p>
Indonesia	4	<p>2) Innovation for Indonesia’s School Children (INOVASI) Independent Review</p> <p>Assess program performance of phase 1 and provide recommendations to inform strategy and approach for phase 2.</p> <p>3) AIP Rural End of Program Review</p> <p>Assess program performance from Phase 1 to inform the strategy for future activities</p> <p>4) Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice Program Phase II Mid Term Review</p> <p>Assess the investment’s progress mid-way through the program.</p>
Timor-Leste	2	<p>1) Governance for Development Mid-Term Review</p> <p>Inform new programming, demonstrate results / outcomes and examine value for money.</p> <p>2) Mid Term Review - Roads for Development – Support Program</p> <p>Assess progress and inform decisions about future support.</p>
Philippines	2	<p>1) Basic Education Sector Transformation Program Final Evaluation</p> <p>Review the program’s outcomes and contribution to the Philippine Department of Education’s organisational development and evidence-based planning and generate evidence for future investments.</p> <p>2) Inclusive and Affordable Financial Facilities for Resilient and Developed Filipinos Final Evaluation</p> <p>Assess outcomes and lessons learned to inform future investments.</p>
Cambodia	2	<p>1) Cambodia Agriculture Value Chain Program Phase II</p> <p>Identify improvements to the existing investment with a focus on policy dialogue and strategic influence.</p> <p>2) Health Equity and Quality Improvement Project</p> <p>A jointly-conducted evaluation to guide program implementation and succession planning.</p>
Vietnam	2	<p>1) Aus4Skills Mid-term Review</p> <p>Assess the program performance toward achieving intended outcomes, make any required adjustments to program design to improve the relevance and sustainability and inform design of a new phase.</p> <p>2) Southern Coastal Corridor program Completion Review</p> <p>Assess performance on completion of this co-financing project with the Asian Development Bank for road upgrades to link key economic zones in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.</p>





Myanmar	1	1) Performance evaluation of Australia’s key economic growth programs in Myanmar Analyse how the Private Sector Development Program (ICCP) and the Public Financial Management Program (PFM) contribute to the department’s Aid Investment Plan for Myanmar and inform new design of economic governance programming.
South East Asia Regional	1	1) Evaluation of the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Support Program The evaluation will inform the new design of the investment, demonstrate results and examine value for money.

SOUTH AND WEST ASIA: 4 evaluations

Afghanistan	2	Nil evaluations to be published in 2019 but two evaluations will commence in late 2019 and will be completed and published in 2020. Afghanistan has 7 programs, 5 of which have been evaluated in the last 2 years.
Bangladesh	1	1) Mid-term Review of the Strategic Partnership Arrangement with BRAC Phase II Assess the effectiveness of an innovative partnership arrangement between Australia (DFAT), the United Kingdom (DFID) and BRAC in delivering results in education, skills development, and livelihoods program in Bangladesh.
Pakistan	1	1) Independent Evaluation of Women’s Economic Empowerment and Market Development Project Assess investment results, identify lessons learnt and best practices regarding women’s economic empowerment.
Nepal	One every 2-3 years	1) Mid-Term Review of the Subnational Governance Program Assess the quality and performance of this program with The Asia Foundation in the first 18 months of implementation, recommend mid-course corrections and provide options for a potential second phase of the Partnership.
South Asia Regional	One every 2-3 years	1) Independent Evaluation of the Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio Assess the performance of investments in this portfolio to inform the next phase of investments under SDIP Program.

HUMANITARIAN: 2 evaluations

Humanitarian (including Emergency Fund)	2	1) Mid-term independent evaluation of Syria humanitarian package Inform Australia’s ongoing response to the Syria crisis, including the potential design of a subsequent multi-year package of assistance. Lessons learned will be used to further refine DFAT’s response to situations of protracted conflict and displacement. 2) Mid-Term Review of Australia Assists Assess the outcomes achieved through DFAT funding of RedR Australia for this program, including a value for money achieved from the DFAT-RedR partnership.
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GLOBAL PROGRAMS AND SECTOR STRATEGIES: 2 evaluations

Australian Volunteers Program	One every 3-5 years	1) Formative Evaluation of Australian Volunteers Program Thematic Impact Areas - Australian Volunteers Program The partner-led evaluation aims to provides a methodology for demonstrating outcomes in three key impact areas, map the program’s global footprint in these areas and provide baselines and recommendations to strengthen engagement in those areas.
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Education Strategy

One every 3-5 years

1) Mid Term Review of the Strategy for Australia's aid investments in education 2015-2020

The review will assess relevance and effectiveness of the Strategy, determine extent of the Strategy's influence on programming decision-making and inform new policy/strategy

SECTOR AND INNOVATION FUND PROGRAMS – 6 evaluations

Law and Justice

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1) Transparency International Asia Pacific Regional Mid-term Evaluation

Assess the performance and achievements of this program in meeting expected results and contributing to positive changes.

2) Asia Pacific Joint Action towards a Global Regime Against Corruption Mid-Term Review

Assess the progress to-date and inform implementation of the project over this investment period.

3) UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project Mid-Term Review

Assess the progress and inform implementation of the project over the remaining investment period.

4) Anti-Corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies Mid-term review

Assess the progress and inform implementation of the project over the remaining investment period.

Health

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1) Data for Health Initiative Joint Independent Review

Assess progress of the partnership between Bloomberg Philanthropies and DFAT, identify factors that contribute to success and highlight lessons learned, with a particular focus on the Indo-Pacific region.

Innovation Fund

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1) Preparing Disadvantaged Youth for the Workforce of the Future Challenge Evaluation

The evaluation will assess the results of the iXc, Atlassian Foundation, MIT Solve Partnership, identify how the Partnership can be scaled up and lessons learned on how the private, education and government sectors can engage effectively for development impact.