



## AID TRANSPARENCY EXTERNAL REVIEW GROUP

### Communiqué for meeting of 30 October 2012

The **Aid Transparency External Review Group** met for the first review of the implementation of the AusAID Transparency Charter on 30 October 2012.

Presentations on the current status, the website project, statistics, the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and the Information Publication Scheme (IPS) were made by agency sections responsible for the implementation of the Transparency Charter. Speaker's notes are available at: [ausaid.gov.au/publications](http://ausaid.gov.au/publications)

A panel discussion chaired by Nicholas Crowther (Aid Transparency), with panellists Kirsty McIvor (Strategic Communication); Karen MacLennan (Statistics); and Garth Luke (World Vision), provided attendees with an opportunity to discuss the challenges, usability and effectiveness of the charter. The panel fielded questions and listened to a range of ideas from both internal and external stakeholders to build upon what is regarded as a very good start to the transparency of Australia's Aid Program.

### Summary of key points the raised

- Reporting of aid delivery requires a unified commitment to transparency across all government departments and aid delivery partners.
- Transparency requires strong media management to ensure that the outcomes of accountability, public disclosure and aid effectiveness present a realistic and complementary message.
- Reporting aid projects against uniform standards across the whole of government is the key to aid transparency. Other government departments are working in collaboration with AusAID to deliver a consistent set of web pages.
- Transparency relies on the collection and reporting of data. There are many opportunities for new models and modes of data representation and delivery across new mediums including geocoding, video and social media.
- These opportunities reflect the potential for significant improvement in the reporting of results, funding and data through the work of AusAID's Statistics and Development Results sections. This includes detailed time series data to be rolled out over the coming months.
- The meeting identified significant improvement in AusAID Quality of Official Development QuODA assessment in the previous 12 months. This is expected to improve further based on projected Transparency Charter deliverables.
- Attendees offered important insight into the work of the agency and requested further opportunity to be involved in the direction of future transparency commitments.

I look forward to providing you with further updates throughout 2013.

Nick Brodie

Director Aid Transparency and Knowledge Services