

**AusAID NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS**  
**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**

Between the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the  
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)

and

CARE Australia

Caritas Australia

CBM Australia

ChildFund Australia

Plan International Australia

Oxfam Australia

TEAR Australia

World Vision Australia

11 December 2012

Save the Children Australia

Fred Hollows Foundation

9 July 2013

## **1.0 Preamble**

- 1.1 As set out in the Australian Government's aid policy statement, *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a Real Difference – Delivering Real Results*, the fundamental purpose of Australian aid is to help people overcome poverty.
- 1.2 The role of the **Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)** is to manage the Australian Government's overseas aid program in delivering effective aid using mechanism and partnerships that achieve results. Australian aid is delivered through a strategic mix of funding to NGOs, government-to-government activities and multi-lateral support.
- 1.3 AusAID has worked with Australian Non-Government Organisations (ANGOs) through the Australian Non-Government Cooperation Program (ANCP) since 1973.
- 1.4 Since 2009 AusAID, through the ANCP, has worked with a selected group of larger accredited NGOs to establish deeper, mutually beneficial relationships known as ANCP Partnerships.
- 1.5 The use of the words "Partnership" and "Partner" in this MoU indicate an approach based on the principles listed in Section 4 of this document and mutual respect between the Partners – that is AusAID and the NGO Signatories to this MoU. This MoU does not create legal relations or a partnership at law.
- 1.6 The legal relations between AusAID and each NGO Partner are set out in the individual AusAID NGO Cooperation Program Head Agreements and funding orders made under each Head Agreement.

## **2.0 Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding**

- 2.1 To articulate the *Partnership* approach that the Partners wish to develop through the ANCP for the period 2013-17.
- 2.2 To set out shared goals, objectives, commitments, priorities and principles.
- 2.3 To recognize that both the Partner NGOs and AusAID are investing in this Partnership.
- 2.4 To maintain a high level of mutual accountability by making clear the obligations of each Partner.

## **3.0 The Goal of the Partnership**

- 3.1 The ANCP Partnerships are a flexible mechanism to support NGOs' programs and strategic directions in line with the goals of the Australian Aid Program to save lives, promote opportunities for all, contribute to sustainable economic development, promote effective governance and facilitate disaster risk reduction.
- 3.2 The ANCP Partnerships enhance and demonstrate performance in development effectiveness, achieve results in line with the goals of the Australian Aid Program, and are consistent with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- 3.3 This Partnership approach is founded on both AusAID's role as a Government Agency and the roles of Australia's major development NGOs to reduce extreme poverty in poor communities in developing countries. By working in partnership, Partners aim to achieve this shared goal: to help people overcome poverty through

sustainable, fair and equitable solutions that address the root causes and symptoms of poverty and disadvantage (refer. Australian Government's aid policy statement, *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a real difference – Delivering real results and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct*).

- 3.4 Beyond this shared goal, the Partnerships draw from the key elements and objectives of the CSEF. We recognise the vision of civil society as informed, engaged, helping to shape development policies and practices, and contributing to good governance.

#### 4.0 Principles that guide ANCP Partnerships

- 4.1 Partners acknowledge the Australian Government's National Compact with domestic Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the Australian Government's aid policy, the Civil Society Engagement Framework, the ACFID Code of Conduct, the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness, and international donor good practice, in the way we work together and our approaches for achieving greater development impact. Drawing on these policies and practices, effective engagement between the Partners on international development issues will be guided by the following ten principles:

##### 4.1.1 *Reducing poverty*

We share a desire to improve the lives of people in developing countries and will work together to maximise the impact of Australia's aid, especially for the poorest.

##### 4.1.2 *Mutual accountability for results*

We recognise the importance of reporting the results of our work to our partners, beneficiaries and to the Australian public.

##### 4.1.3 *Open communication and consultation*

We agree that open communication between civil society and AusAID will lead to better programs and policies, thereby improving conditions for people living in poverty.

##### 4.1.4 *Respect for independence*

We will respect the freedom of CSOs to contribute to public debate without impact on their funding status.

##### 4.1.5 *Appreciation of diversity*

We believe that the great diversity within CSOs, both within and outside Australia, is a significant strength that responds to the needs of communities living in poverty.

##### 4.1.6 *Do no harm*

We will seek to avoid causing harm to—or creating conflict within and between—organisations, communities and individuals.

##### 4.1.7 *Equity*

We will ensure that different perspectives and needs, including those of women, young people, people with disability and ethnic minorities, are taken into account in how we do our work.

#### *4.1.8 Shared learning*

We will share relevant information and data to help develop sound policy and program approaches, and to help us all evaluate and learn from our efforts and produce even better results in the future.

#### *4.1.9 Collaboration*

We agree that more can be achieved through collaboration and we will support networks and mechanisms that strengthen our ability to deliver effective aid results and reduce duplication.

#### *4.1.10 Strengthen local systems and ensure sustainability*

We will increase support to organisations that are embedded locally in developing countries either through local partners or by providing assistance directly to local organisations. We aim to build local capacity, to have a lasting impact on the poor.

### **5.0 Objectives of the Partnership**

**Partners agree under this Memorandum to support the following priority objectives:**

#### *5.1 Improved Effectiveness and Impact*

Partners will seek to improve development impact for people living in poverty by linking increased ANCP funding to greater effectiveness, increased capacity and relevance to Australia's aid program goals, by consistently tracking and reporting results, and by promoting better practice.

#### *5.2 Sustainability*

Partners will seek a sustainable approach to overcoming poverty within developing countries by building capacity in service delivery, improving governance and accountability and strengthening local systems.

#### *5.3 Reduced Risks and Shared Accountability*

Partners are committed to comprehensive risk management approaches and acknowledge that working in developing countries is inherently risky. They will seek to reduce and manage risks by working closely with CSOs to enhance child protection and to reduce fraud and mismanagement of funding.

#### *5.4 Efficiency and Value for Money*

Partners seek to ensure that their activities are efficient and make optimal use of resources in achieving intended outcomes.

#### *5.5 Diversity and Innovation*

Partners seek to improve their development impact by promoting innovative responses to development challenges and drawing on the skills and experience of a diverse range of actors.

***AusAID agrees to:***

- 5.6 Provide ANCP funding for the Partner NGOs over four years from 2013-14 to 2016-17 to facilitate the shared goal and objectives. Any funding under this MoU is subject to annual budget processes and is not guaranteed.
- 5.7 Indicative ANCP funding figures for years 1, 2, and 3 of the Partnership are noted below with the 4th year subject to the Government's funding allocation (to be identified after the May 2013 Budget announcement) and dispersed in alignment with the agreed Partner allocation methodology <sup>1</sup>.

Indicative Funding Table<sup>2</sup>

Financial Year	Indicative Annual Funds (A\$)
2013-14	\$92,000,000
2014-15	\$108,000,000
2015-16	\$113,500,000
2016-17	TBC

- 5.8 Making ANCP funding available to NGO Partners by taking into account Australian aid program goals, national interest, capacity to make a difference, effectiveness, current scale and relevance.

***The Partnership NGOs agree to:***

- 5.9 Assist AusAID in contributing to the goal of the Australian Aid Program to help people overcome poverty. Australian NGOs do this through their civil society relationships that increase the impact and reach of the Australian Aid Program. They may work in areas where government-to-government aid is not possible and where they have strong links with community groups and CSOs in developing countries.
- 5.10 Deliver high quality poverty alleviation programs in line with Australian Government policies including AusAID NGO Cooperation Program accreditation process and evaluated through the new Effectiveness Assessment Methodology and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) and in line with ACFID's Code of Conduct.

---

1 Allocate funds to each of the various existing Partner NGOs on the following basis: - 35% of total indicative partner funding allocation to World Vision Australia, - 40% of the balance divided equally amongst the other seven Partner NGOs and the remainder divided amongst the seven partner agencies proportionate to their respective Recognised Development Expenditure (RDE) on a rolling three year average.

2 The indicative funding in this table reflects the level of funding for the Partners at the time of signing. Additional funds would be made available in the event of new Partner NGOs entering this scheme. The table is amended in writing between the Partners if the indicative funding amount changes. The indicative funding amount for 2015-16 and 2016-17 is subject to FMA Regulation 9/10 Approval.

- 5.11 Continue to meet AusAID accreditation and effectiveness standards and meet the following eligibility criteria:
- 5.11.1 have a strong corporate governance structure, are AusAID Full accredited NGOs and are signatories to the ACFID Code of Conduct;
  - 5.11.2 have demonstrated engagement with the Australian community (i.e. a three year average Recognised Development Expenditure (RDE) of at least \$8 million); and AusAID funding, excluding humanitarian funding, is less than 50% of their international development income (i.e. average funding over three years received by the NGO that is used to support their international development activities);
  - 5.11.3 have proven capacity to contribute to the development of an effective aid program at significant scale and with lasting impact;
  - 5.11.4 have a demonstrated commitment to working with AusAID to develop and implement an effectiveness assessment framework for NGOs to better demonstrate effectiveness, capacity and relevance, and to follow the CSEF principles of engagement;
  - 5.11.5 have demonstrated ability to use ANCP funds for programs which align with the five strategic goals of the Australian aid program, make a significant contribution to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) and annual Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework (CAPF) results reporting;
  - 5.11.6 play an active role in strengthening the Australian NGO sector and civil society organisations in partner countries including through the dissemination of learning, analysis and evidence-based good practice; and
  - 5.11.7 proactively engage with AusAID and the broader development sector on policy and practice issues with sound evidence and knowledge gained from program and developing country experience which help to enhance development effectiveness.
- 5.12 Existing and new NGO Partners will be requested to demonstrate their ability and commitment to fulfill these eligibility criteria prior to entering into the Partnership. In order to remain a signatory to this MoU, all NGO Partners must continue to demonstrate their ability and commitment to meet these eligibility criteria. NGOs are invited by AusAID into the Partnership based on meeting the rigorous accreditation standards and demonstrated ability and commitment to satisfy the eligibility criteria.
- 5.13 AusAID may invite a new NGO which has demonstrated its ability and commitment to fulfill the eligibility criteria to join the Partnership by sending the NGO a written invitation. When the NGO accepts the invitation in writing, it will automatically become a Partner, without the need to amend this MoU. When a new NGO becomes a Partner, AusAID will inform the existing Partners.

## **6.0 Effective Planning, Management, Learning & Review of the ANCP Partner Program**

- 6.1 A program resource facility will be developed by AusAID to assist in enhancing the quality of the ANCP through better administration, planning, analysis and learning, and to help deliver the shared priorities of this Partnership.
- 6.2 Partners will contribute to annual planning and learning processes that identify how the shared goal and objectives of this Partnership will be tracked and results reported.

## **7.0 Key Partnership Actions**

Partners commit to working on the following actions during the course of the ANCP Partnership:

- 7.1 To focus the overwhelming majority of ANCP activities and funds on international development programming, supported by work in research, policy development and dialogue, systems development, monitoring, evaluation and learning and development awareness raising as set out under the Head Agreements and funding orders between AusAID and each NGO Partner.
- 7.2 *Policy Development and Consultation*
  - 7.2.1 To participate in and facilitate effective consultation and contributions to Australian Government policy and programming in areas of NGO expertise, and to facilitate contributions to NGO policy and programming in the areas of AusAID expertise.
  - 7.2.2 To initiate consultation on policy and program opportunities or concerns and to provide early advice of international visitors or events relevant to achieving the objectives of this Partnership.
  - 7.2.3 To provide opportunities for dialogue through regular meetings at various levels across AusAID and NGOs, including executive-level meetings to discuss progress against the shared objectives outlined in this MoU and key aid policy issues.
- 7.3 *Program Implementation*
  - 7.3.1 To report on the effective use of Government monies and mitigate against identifiable risks in all aspects of program implementation.
  - 7.3.2 To ensure that quality reporting of results achieved with AusAID funding is undertaken through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) and prioritised in line with the government's Transparency Charter and Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework (CAPF).
  - 7.3.3 To use collective strengths to maximise the impact and outcomes under the ANCP as agreed from time to time. This may include, for example, leading and participating in impact assessments and evaluations of the whole ANCP, individual ANCP programs or peer reviews.

**7.4    *NGO Sector Capacity Development***

- 7.4.1 To work collectively to provide leadership, implement aspects of the CSEF, enhance shared learning and demonstrate and encourage innovative and effective development practice in the sector.
- 7.4.2 Develop the evidence base including data and impact evaluations to demonstrate the effectiveness of the ANCP approaches.

**7.5    *Development Awareness Raising (DAR)***

- 7.5.1 The Partners acknowledge that the ANCP development awareness raising activities aim to increase the effectiveness of Australia's aid program through enhancing transparency and by engaging more Australians in aid and development issues.
- 7.5.2 Development awareness raising activities will meet at least one of three objectives: promoting transparency in the use of public funds; enhancing development effectiveness; and increasing public understanding of development issues.
- 7.5.3 ANCP Partnership funds will not be directly used for any form of fundraising, to promote a particular religious adherence, partisan political activities, advocacy for increased aid funding or lobbying for changes in Australian government aid policy, or to mobilise members of the public to undertake advocacy in relation to the Australian government aid program.
- 7.5.4 Partners agree to publish the amounts spent on DAR and details of the DAR activities on AusAID and NGO websites for better transparency and to ensure that the Australian public understand the role and benefits of DAR.

**8.0    *Public Recognition of this Partnership***

- 8.1 The Partners agree to promote awareness of this Partnership and its achievements throughout our international networks and amongst the Australian community.

**9.0    *Amendment***

- 9.1 AusAID may amend this MoU by recording the amendment in writing and each Partner confirming its acceptance of the amendment in writing.

**10.0    *Duration***

- 10.1 This MoU will take effect from the date of its signature and will remain in effect until 30 June 2017.



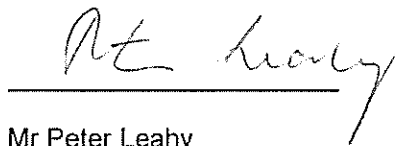
SIGNED on behalf of THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Carr', written over a horizontal line.

Senator the Hon Bob Carr

Minister for Foreign Affairs

SIGNED for and on behalf of Care Australia by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Leahy', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Peter Leahy

Principal Executive, International Programs, CARE Australia

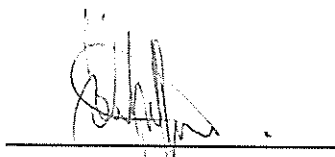
SIGNED for and on behalf of Caritas Australia by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jack de Groot', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Jack de Groot

Chief Executive Officer, Caritas Australia

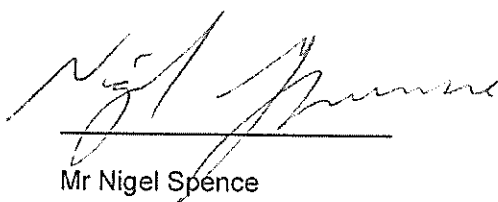
**SIGNED** for and on behalf of **CBM Australia** by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Jeffries', written over a horizontal line.

Mr John Jeffries

National Director, CBM Australia

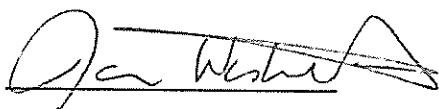
**SIGNED** for and on behalf of **ChildFund Australia** by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Spence', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Nigel Spence

Chief Executive Officer, ChildFund

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of **Plan International Australia** by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Wishart', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Ian Wishart

Executive Director, Plan Australia

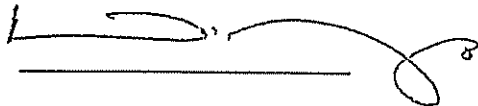
**SIGNED** for and on behalf of Oxfam Australia by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Hewett', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Andrew Hewett

Executive Director, Oxfam Australia

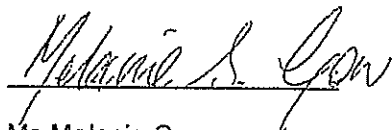
**SIGNED** for and on behalf of TEAR Australia by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Maury', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Matthew Maury

Chief Executive Officer, TEAR Australia

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of World Vision Australia by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Melanie S. Gow', written over a horizontal line.

Ms Melanie Gow

Chief Strategy Officer and Chief of Staff, World Vision Australia





## Australian Government

### Entering into AusAID NGO Cooperation Program Partnerships Memorandum of Understanding

As laid out in the attached AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Partnerships Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the purpose of the MoU is to articulate the Partnership approach that Partners wish to develop through the ANCP for the period 2013–17; to set out shared goals, objectives, commitments, priorities, and principles; to recognise that both the Partner NGOs and AusAID are investing in this Partnership; and to maintain a high level of mutual accountability by making clear the obligations of each Partner.

I hereby accept AusAID's offer to join the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program Partnerships MoU.

**SIGNED** on behalf of **THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Parke', written over a horizontal line.

The Hon Melissa Parke MP  
Minister for International Development

Date: 3 JULY 2013

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of **Save the Children Australia** by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Gilbert', written over a horizontal line.

Scott Gilbert  
Acting Chief Executive Officer, Save the Children Australia

Date: 09 JULY 2013



## Australian Government

### Entering into AusAID NGO Cooperation Program Partnerships Memorandum of Understanding

As laid out in the attached AusAID NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Partnerships Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the purpose of the MoU is to articulate the Partnership approach that Partners wish to develop through the ANCP for the period 2013–17; to set out shared goals, objectives, commitments, priorities, and principles; to recognise that both the Partner NGOs and AusAID are investing in this Partnership; and to maintain a high level of mutual accountability by making clear the obligations of each Partner.

I hereby accept AusAID's offer to join the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program Partnerships MoU.

**SIGNED** on behalf of **THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Parke', written over a horizontal line.

The Hon Melissa Parke MP  
Minister for International Development

Date: 9 JULY 2013

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of **The Fred Hollows Foundation** by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Podesta', written over a horizontal line.

Ms Lesley Podesta  
Director Global Programs, The Fred Hollows Foundation

Date: 9.7.13