

## RE: Submission to the Australian Government International Development Policy Review 2022

InDev media is a Startup within the broader International Development ecosystem, developed to support greater engagement, knowledge and opportunity sharing and discussion across all facets of this sector.

The genesis of InDev lies in the recognition that while there is significant work being done across NGO, private sector, academic and government aspects of the sector, there is little space for profiling, sharing insights and updates or career pathways throughout the sector. Our goal is to support this by building a platform and space for sharing relevant news, jobs, analysis and insights and enabling members of the sector to perform their important work. InDev takes an ecosystem view of the International Development Sector and seeks to support all facets to enhance the impact and effectiveness in our region.

In this context, InDev is excited to provide our comments for the current policy review and looks forward to working with the Australian Government to enhance and grow the International Development capabilities and community in our region.

While we have responded to the questions individually below, an overarching comment is a need for greater consideration and engagement to build the global development ecosystem in Australia. Taking an ecosystem view of the sector allows greater focus on building capabilities, skills and knowledge, enhances impact and brings together a clearer public profile for the work that is done. Thinking in terms of the ecosystem focuses on the ability of each part of the broader community to be enhanced through collaboration. It identifies the common needs and issues and seeks ways to support these. InDev is focused on supporting the entire global development ecosystem, understanding how it operates, and where those needs are. To this end, we recently launched the first version of the Australian Development Ecosystem Map, to profile the breadth of work being done. This map is by no means comprehensive, nor finished, and based on the feedback received we are developing version 2 currently.

To this end, we recently launched the first version of the Australian Development Ecosystem Map, to profile the breadth of work being done. This map is by no means comprehensive, nor finished, and based on the feedback received we are developing version 2 currently.



Figure 1: InDev Australian Development Ecosystem Map - Larger version at the end of this document

## What key trends or challenges will shape Australia's engagement in our region and globally over the next five to 10 years? What risks and opportunities does this present for Australia's development assistance?

Global challenges from Climate Change, Geopolitical concerns in our region, advanced technology and Tech 4.0, and economic impacts from all of the above will dominate Australia's approach and engagement in the region. However, while these will be covered in detail by other responses, the opportunities for collaboration and challenge-focused approaches provide a strong opportunity for the region. One of the more exciting trends is the blending of collaboration and financing across various sectors, breaking down the old silos of global impact activities. While previously private sector, consultancy, NGO and government would operate in silos in how they engaged in creating impact, the strong trends of collaboration, financing, program delivery and collaboration across sectors is a critical trend that needs to be further supported. Specifically, placing the communities that are being impacted at the centre is a key need to ensure that these collaborations are effective, and presents a unique opportunity for the government to convene and support these collaborations, and ensure they are focused on impact.

## What development capabilities will Australia need to respond to these challenges?

Critically needed within Australia's Development Capabilities is an appreciation and integration of innovative thinking into how development is delivered and supported. Moving from a policy/research-focused perspective to one that supports innovation, divergent ideas and thinking. Capabilities that explore new opportunities, support new ideas and seek to find win-win solutions will be key. As the foundations of geopolitical orders, climate and technology all shift continually, embracing innovation is key to adaptation and impact.

Additionally, supporting partnerships across sectors and communities is necessary to respond to challenges. Supporting the convening and sharing of insights and expertise, fostering discussion and creating space for sharing are critical to enhancing these partnerships.

## How can Australia best utilise its national strengths to enhance the impact of our development program and address multidimensional vulnerabilities?

Through viewing Australia's development community as an ecosystem provides a strong framework for enhancing our strengths and the impact of the development program. Viewing each sector and organisation as a co-dependant aspect of the ecosystem, and exploring the linkages present, the gaps and the challenges will present a strong understanding of where there are opportunities to intervene in the sector, foster new collaborations that enhance the existing strengths and knowledge in unique ways to solve the deep challenges present.

Currently, the sector is still viewed in silos (NGO, contractor, academic) and while some cross-collaboration is encouraged, many of the funding or engagement mechanisms still follow these silos. Viewing the sector as an ecosystem allows true collaboration, that focuses not on the differences, but on the strengths of each component in the ecosystem, and how they complement each other. It then identifies where the gaps lie and where intervention is needed.

## How should the new policy reflect the Government's commitments to build stronger and more meaningful partnerships in our region, founded on mutual trust and respect and shared values of fairness and equality?

Placing the communities in the region as the experts on what is needed is critical. Through co-design approaches, where the pacific communities hold 'lived expertise' that collaborates with the expertise of Australian or global experts in their arenas. The centrality of lived expertise ensures trust and respect are central while supporting and leveraging the strengths and knowledge of global communities.

## How should the performance and delivery systems be designed to promote transparency and accountability, as well as effectiveness and learning in Australia's development assistance?

Framing monitoring and evaluation as a learning exercise rather than a reporting requirement is key to building a stronger development program. Linking the implementation of learning to performance payments, as opposed to the link of achievement of outcomes may be one approach that provides transparency and enhanced impact as a norm within the program. Public sharing of the lessons learnt, in digestible formats as opposed to large reports is also a necessary change so that lessons are shared and absorbed beyond the few who write and review the reports.

The approach of conducting aid reviews at a country and community level, rather than specific programs will also support a greater understanding of how different development activities interact, and the overarching impact of activities, beyond any specific provider.

---

InDev Media delivers news, updates, jobs and events for the Global Development Sector in the Asia Pacific. As a unique offering within the global development sector, our vision is to enhance the sharing of critical knowledge, insights, and opportunities to create a greater impact on development activities.

We focus on information that has an impact on working in the region and tailor our offerings to what is needed. We believe that development is local, and while knowledge of global practice is important, it is at the regional, national and community levels that development occurs.

InDev focuses on sharing information to grow and enhance the global development sector through succinct delivery, a local focus and impact-focused curation.

To explore more, signup for InDev Weekly and see what is happening in our region, visit:

[Indev.media](https://indev.media)

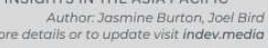
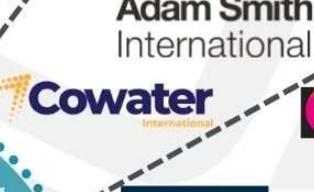
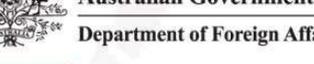
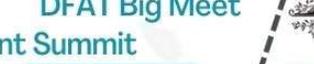
Email: [hi@indev.media](mailto:hi@indev.media)



The inDev  
Australian  
Development  
Ecosystem  
Map



VERSION 1 - NOV 2022



DEVELOPED BY:  
**inDev**  
YOUR SOURCE FOR GLOBAL  
DEVELOPMENT NEWS, JOBS AND  
INSIGHTS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC  
Author: Jasmine Burton, Joel Bird  
For more details or to update visit [indev.media](http://indev.media)