



Oxfam Australia Submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade New International Development Policy November 2022

Introduction

Oxfam Australia (OAU) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of a new International Development Policy (IDP).

Australian development and humanitarian assistance must be focused on supporting the poorest countries and communities and ensure resources flow first and foremost to women and other marginalised groups who are denied power and prosperity.

The IDP must align with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The IDP must be clear in addressing the external factors that influence inequality and poverty; COVID-19 and other health challenges, climate change and environmental degradation, systems of economic and gender injustice, diminishing human rights and closing civic space.

The IDP must be ambitious and take a systems approach in its design and delivery that cuts across the areas of economic, climate and gender justice.

Grounding the International Development Policy in human rights and sustainable development

The IDP must be grounded in sustainable and resilient development with alignment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the human rights framework of internationally agreed legal instruments.

OAU recognises that geopolitical concerns overlap with development and humanitarian needs. However, we advocate that international development and humanitarian work at the heart of Australia's foreign policy should be delivered primarily in the interests of addressing poverty, inequality and enhancing human rights, rather than as a tool in advancing Australia's geostrategic interests. To conflate the two approaches puts at risk the strategic partnership and collaboration necessary to ensure investment in humanitarian and development contexts is effective.

As a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Australian Government must adopt legislated, stepped targets for achieving 0.7 per cent Official Development Assistance (ODA) of GNI by 2030¹.

As a party to the Paris Agreement, Australia's renewed 2022 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) are welcomed. However, NDC's must be calibrated to reduce carbon emissions in line with the science on remaining within the Paris target of 1.5C of warming. For Australia to return to a leadership role on climate change and to effectively respond to calls from development partners in our region, it must take further steps to decarbonise our economy in line with the Paris target. Australia must also provide climate finance and loss and damage finance that is new, additional, predictable and adequate to meet the growing needs from climate change.

Climate and conflict-induced hunger crises across the world signal the need to develop a comprehensive food security strategy. Humanitarian assistance must shift to an anticipatory modality to support adaption to the effects of climate change, conflict and COVID-19.

The IDP should be informed by need and delivery should be guided into countries and regions where Australia is best placed to meet this need. It is critical that development, humanitarian and climate finance investments respond to the priorities of low-income countries, centres gender equality and directs a greater proportion of resources to initiatives targeting the most vulnerable communities.

In elevating the IDP to the heart of foreign policy, it must harness whole-of-government effort to achieve development and humanitarian outcomes. Using a whole-of-government approach, Australia can play an important and more effective role in influencing climate negotiations and economic policy, particularly in relation to taxation, labour rights and access to medicines and medical technologies.

Accountable and effective use of Australia's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA)

Addressing debt distress

Australia must ensure its development assistance does not worsen low-income country debt distress and should avoid expanding the scope of its sovereign and non-sovereign lending, particularly where those receiving loans are in countries at moderate or high risk of debt distress. For this reason, ODA must preference delivery via grants not loans and support debt relief and restructuring.

Australia can play a leadership role in addressing debt distress in low-income countries by working within the G20 and as a shareholder in multilateral development banks to strengthen mechanisms for debt relief and restructuring for low- and middle-income countries, including advocating the recommendations of the Bridgetown Initiative². Australia should also support the development of a long-term solutions to the growing debt crisis, by pushing for a permanent multilateral framework

¹ In the October 2022 Budget, the Government advised ODA/GNI ratio for 2022-23 will hold at 0.20% and based on the latest estimates, this could drop to 0.19% in 2024-25. This is below the 2021 OECD DAC average of 0.39% and well below the longstanding target of at least 0.7% developed countries agreed to in 1970. According to the Development Policy Centre, Australia ranked 21 out of 29 OECD DAC countries on generosity of ODA program in 2021, despite having the 9th largest economy in the group. This ranking has dropped from a ranking of 14 in 2015 (<https://devpolicy.org/global-aid-up-in-2021-but-australia-still-lagging-20220414/>).

² [The 2022 Bridgetown Initiative - Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade](#)

under the auspices of the United Nations that facilitates the systematic, timely and fair restructuring of sovereign debt. This framework should be convened, but not led by, all creditors.

Enhancing credibility through transparency, accountability and performance measurement

Transparency is an important component of development effectiveness and its importance was previously articulated in a transparency charter³. Quality, reliable and accessible development assistance data can be used to track financial flows, analyse future expenditure, monitor projects, assess development impact and ultimately inform improvements in the quality and effectiveness of development assistance. Australia has traditionally ranked poorly in the transparency of development assistance. On the *Aid Transparency List for 2022* DFAT was ranked 41 out of 51 in the world.⁴ Similarly, the *Australian Aid Transparency Audit* run by the Development Policy Centre found that DFAT transparency fell notably between 2019 and 2022.⁵

To be accountable to Australian taxpayers and stakeholders in the countries where Australian ODA is invested, OAU recommends:

- The IDP commits to development assistance transparency and establishes a transparency charter with a unit to monitor, promote and report development assistance transparency.
- The Australian Government re-establish and strengthen an Independent Office of Development Effectiveness with a significant increase in resourcing and authority, including independent reporting mechanisms to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for International Development and the Pacific.
- Annual reporting should include a complete account of Australia's development investments and their performance (regardless of funding source or delivery partner). This should include detailed breakdowns of performance by country and thematic priorities, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender and disability.
- All delivery partners of international development and humanitarian investments should be required to implement the same standards for transparency, accountability and aid effectiveness.

Australia is signatory to a range of global commitments to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Delivering these shared goals requires use of results-oriented frameworks, shared analysis and effective reporting at and across scale to understand Australia's role and contribution to change. Measuring development effectiveness requires high-level strategic intent, with associated commitment, processes and capabilities.⁶ For these reason, OAU recommends:

- A performance framework is established for the Australian development and humanitarian program to; support monitoring, evaluation, learning and impact measurement of Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda; focus on systemic and systems-level change and approaches to address complex development issues (ie governance, social norms).
- A whole-of-program evaluation, learning and research agenda is established and resourced to share and apply lessons in an accessible form to multiple actors for improved development policy and practice with priorities to be informed by country and local needs.

³ [AusAID Transparency Charter \(devpolicy.org\)](https://devpolicy.org)

⁴ https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2022/06/Aid-Transparency-Index-2022.pdf

⁵ <https://devpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-Aid-Transparency-Audit-FINAL.pdf>

⁶ https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/Performance%20Submission.pdf

- Evidence generated through development investments informs decision-making on funding allocations, program strategies and partnerships.
- DFAT recognises and allows for different levels of quality for reporting, particularly for local actors. DFAT should adapt and customise donor requirements based on context. Equally, partners must be adequately resourced to enable them to meet reporting requirements and conditions.
- Australia collaborates with other like-minded donors in the region to harmonise compliance requirements across donors, reduce duplication and increase efficiency for partners on the ground consistent with The Grand Bargain Workstream 9⁷.

Levelling the playing the field amongst organisations within the development system

Australian development assistance is delivered through a variety of channels. Not only has the overall ODA reduced since 2013 but DFAT has had an increasing preference for development assistance delivered through commercial suppliers. In 2020 \$2.791 billion AUD of the aid program was delivered by 20 commercial facilities contracted by DFAT.⁸ As of 2021, multi-lateral and managing contractors delivered two-thirds of the aid program, up from 50% in 2013.⁹

Oxfam and partners believe DFAT's increasing focus on commercial tendering has reduced the diversity, nuance and creativity of the ODA portfolio in favour of simpler contracting arrangements. Through managing contractors, norms around partnership have been reduced to transactional arrangements for expediency, which comes at the cost of meaningful partnerships, local participation and rights-based approaches for sustainable development outcomes. Evidence shows that ANGOs deliver effective and inclusive development practice including innovation, flexibility to respond to changes in context and deliver assistance to people in the most vulnerable situations.¹⁰

ODA delivered through ANGOs also has the benefit of leveraging funds raised from the Australian public. In 2019-20 gross public donations to ACFID member ANGOs reached just over \$1 billion AUD.¹¹ ANGO reach and engagement with the Australian public is an unrecognised feature of public diplomacy.¹² ANGOs, unlike commercial facilities, undergo scrupulous due diligence processes such as DFAT accreditation assessment to ensure they have appropriate risk-management in place, they meet their obligations under the Australian Charities and not-for-profit Commission, are compliant with the ACFID Code of Conduct, and have passed ethical screening for fraud and counter terrorism.

To level the playing field amongst organisations within the development system, OAU recommends:

- DFAT permit and encourage local actors to participate in multiple bids to ensure that winning tenders do not exclude important local actors from the delivery of a program.
- DFAT broaden procurement criteria to assign equal assessment value of individual CVs to organisational presence, relationships and in-country track record and exclude consultants involved in the tender design process from the resulting procurement process (conflict of interest).
- DFAT considers specific funding mechanisms for local actors.

⁷ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/harmonise-and-simplify-reporting-requirements>

⁸ <https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/value-money-the-delivery-official-development-assistance-through-facility-arrangements>

⁹ <https://devpolicy.org/aidtracker/sectors/>

¹⁰ See ANCP evaluation, unpublished.

¹¹ <https://devpolicy.org/aidtracker/trends/>

¹² See ANCP evaluation, unpublished.

- DFAT designs procurement processes to support greater sustained impact and encourage greater diversity of actors such as ANGOs and local actors. This includes how programs are designed, the size of tenders and the assessment criteria.
- DFAT assesses the opportunities and risks of new financing modalities against development effectiveness principles and ensure that any risks and unintended consequences are carefully considered and managed.¹³
- DFAT reviews the accreditation system and, if retained, make it mandatory for all ODA partners and make it explicit with all development partners that full accreditation is an acceptable standard of due diligence and should apply efficiently across all DFAT funding arrangements with ANGOs.
- DFAT increases long-term, predictable and flexible funding arrangements for ANGOs.
- DFAT implements in full the recommendations from the 2022 ANCP and AHP evaluations.

Aligning and maximising ODA

OAU and partners have appreciated the flexibility of development assistance through ANCP and AHP, such as re-allocating budgets and adapting strategies and activities in response to fastmoving crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and other contextual shifts. Funding flexibility has also fostered innovation with ANGOs trialling new approaches and seeding pilots. However, NGO funding continues to shrink. To achieve value for money and maximise the small portion of GNI the Australian Government spends on ODA, OAU recommends ensuring greater alignment between multi-lateral, bilateral, contractor and ANGO investments. This includes complementing like-minded donors in the region such as the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union. An IDP lens can be applied to non-ODA regional investments, for example digital infrastructure development that ensures no-one is left behind in terms of internet connectivity, financial inclusion and data rights.

Focus of the IDP

The primary objective of the IDP must be to support inclusive, resilient and sustainable social, economic and environmental development. The key to achieve this is through taking a system-based approach, enhancing accountable governance (top down) and strengthening active civil society (bottom up) to ensure the priorities of countries are being addressed over donors' strategic interests. Meeting the needs of people in poverty must occur within the planetary boundaries that protect the planet's life-supporting systems¹⁴. Country-level investments must be evidence-driven based on the needs of that country and with the inclusion of civil society, Women's Rights Organisations and other representatives of marginalised groups in determining priorities.

Global presence of Australian ODA

OAU acknowledges the importance of Australian development investment in the Asia-Pacific region and understands the prioritisation of this region. The humanitarian obligation is global and other priorities are also critical. For this reason, government should have an explicit decision-making framework for Australia's global development investment to ensure the rationale for decisions is transparent. There also needs to be predictable pathways for adjustment when conditions evolve.

¹³ Submission to Development Finance Review - ActionAid, Jubilee, OAU.

¹⁴ About Doughnut Economics | DEAL

Defending and enhancing civic space

Civil society organisations play a vital role in reducing poverty and injustice. Having a strong and effective civil society is a development outcome in its own right ¹⁵.

It is critical that the role of civil society and its contribution to international development, democratisation, protecting human rights and the rule of law is clearly articulated in an agency-wide policy that provides a framework for how DFAT promotes, supports and engages with civil society.

CSOs are recognised in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the critical role they play in implementing and upholding accountability for the SDGs. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation has committed to providing enabling environments for CSOs, both as implementing partners and as independent development actors in their own right.

The new IDP must support and strengthen civil society in the region and everywhere. Support for civil society bolsters pluralism, strengthens effective and accountable governance, and contributes to stability.

Investment in civil society organisations in our region helps Australia generate strong and enduring relationships with populations in neighbouring countries. Supporting civil society builds people-to-people links between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, essential to regional security and cooperation, mutually beneficial trade, and strengthened economic and diplomatic ties.

Strong civil society is a precursor to development, democratisation and prosperity. Thriving civil society contributes to regional security through the promotion of good governance and social cohesion, and by reducing vulnerability to shocks. Challenges to civil society reflect a direct indication of deteriorating context antithetical to the achievement of the SDGs. Thus, promotion and protection of civil society ought to be a key feature of an effective IDP.

DFAT should foster multistakeholder partnerships across the region that include DFAT, CSOs as well as national governments, regional governmental bodies, private sector, academia, media and local communities.

Thematic Priorities

The thematic priorities of the IDP should include climate justice, economic justice and gender equality, disability and social inclusions (GEDSI).

Climate justice through democratising the energy transition and adequately funding climate adaptation and resilience, disaster risk reduction, mitigation, and loss and damage. OAU recommends:

- Australia and other polluting countries do more to reduce emissions and act faster to decarbonise their economies and assist others in the region to do the same in order to remain within reach of the Paris target of 1.5C of warming.
- Australia's climate finance and loss & damage finance is new and additional to ODA and delivered predominantly through grants rather than loans.

¹⁵ <https://acfid.asn.au/our-focus/strong-effective-civil-society>

- Australia increases our climate finance commitment to \$3 billion over 2020-2025 and work to fulfil our fair share of the global USD \$100 billion (AUD \$4 billion annually) pledge and honour our commitments by 2025.
- Australia makes an initial contribution to loss and damage financing through the fund agreed at COP27, above and beyond existing climate finance commitments, accounting for this amount separately from adaptation finance.
- Australia goes beyond a climate risk mainstreaming approach to ensure funding is directed at initiatives with principally-focused adaptation and gender objectives (OECD DAC markers) that support gender-responsive and transformative climate resilient development that centres justice and equity as outlined in the *Falling Short* report and looks to the Canadian model linking gender and climate^{16, 17}.
- Australian finance is distributed through a range of channels (diversified portfolio), including direct bilateral support and contributions to multilateral funds. By engaging with global mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, Australia can also influence the quality and direction of regional and global responses to climate change.
- Australia considers supporting emerging financing mechanisms established and led by low-income countries, such as the Pacific Resilience Facility, which provide agile, small-scale grants more easily accessible for local actors to support climate resilience and disaster preparedness across the Pacific region.

Economic justice with a focus on reducing economic inequality and poverty and; women’s economic empowerment. OAU recommends:

- The IDP ensures that those impacted by economic injustice, particularly women, people with disabilities and other marginalised people, have representation, collective voice and leadership to influence the policies, strategies and plans that impact on their economic wellbeing and resilience.
- Funding is available for workers’ organisations to ensure there is capacity for workers, particularly women and other marginalised groups, in the formal and informal economies to have a voice at the workplace and in wider workplace relations and public policy processes.
- Funding reflects the priorities of women’s and workers’ rights organisations and enables organisations to address capacity gaps, including in relation to human resources, leadership and governance, strategic planning and collaboration, monitoring and evaluation, and coordination and communication.
- Working through regional and global institutions, Australia plays a role to influence labour laws protecting workers’ rights to free association, at least a living wage and safe working conditions.
- The care economy and the gendered nature of unpaid and underpaid care work is recognised and redistributed. The IDP should also support and bolster social protection systems in childcare, aged care and education to relieve the burden on women to undertake these responsibilities.

Gender Justice with a focus on gender equality, disability and social inclusion. OAU recommends:

- The IDP makes a transformative shift in policy from gender equality to gender justice with an approach that draws attention to the systems and structures that enable and heighten gender inequality and maintain poverty.

¹⁶ https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-ACT-004-Climate-Finance-Report_Digital.pdf

¹⁷ [Women and climate change - Canada.ca](https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-ACT-004-Climate-Finance-Report_Digital.pdf)

- There needs to be greater analysis and recognition of the harmful gender norms and colonial power structures that reinforce how development assistance is currently delivered, including the systematic exclusion of women from decision-making. These power structures keep marginalised and oppressed individuals and groups from accessing the benefits of development assistance at all scales, limiting their opportunities to determine priorities and modalities and drive sustainable outcomes from the bottom-up¹⁸.
- Adoption of feminist funding models to address the inequalities in global financing infrastructure by providing accessible grant funding with governance structures that are more accessible to CSOs, and increasing the focus on flexible, core and multi-year funding, including funding for acquittal and reporting by local delivery partners.
- Funding to Women's Rights Organisations is increased and advisers involved in development projects must have context-specific subject matter expertise.
- All sectors and programs have an intentional lens to address violence and exploitation of marginalised group¹⁹.
- The IDP incorporate gender, disability and intersectional analysis, and uses disaggregated data and gender markers.
- The IDP moves beyond building women's leadership and business involvement because this investment has failed to address the needs of the most marginalised and poorest groups who lack access to the most basic of rights.
- The IDP acknowledges and works with the fact that 'change' in gender equality programs is a complex process - often visible long after the phase out of a project. There is a need to build in: i) recognition of an incremental change, and ii) consciously encouraging negative outcomes to be included in reporting.

Enhancing humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian emergencies continue to impact the globe, with projections that the number of disasters annually may increase from around 400 in 2015 to 560 per year by 2030²⁰. Climate change further accelerates the pace and severity of hazard events and the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the need to change how the global community manages risk. Protracted crises, food insecurity and famine have put 50 million people on the brink of starvation²¹. Poverty, inequality, violence and environmental degradation are increasingly concentrated in fragile and conflict affected regions, demonstrating the need for resilience-building and coordinated work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus²².

As such, OAU recommends:

- The Australian Government treats humanitarian assistance as a distinct component of the development program and develops a specific humanitarian strategy accordingly.

¹⁸ While Australia has incorporated a GESI perspective across its development program, overall, it is not optimised to meet the expectations and challenges faced by diverse women, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people and other marginalised groups.

¹⁹ In addition to economic impacts for women, the added stresses of economic uncertainty and COVID-19 in the household have exponentially increased gender-based violence for women.

²⁰ <https://www.undrr.org/gar2022-our-world-risk>

²¹ <https://www.fightfamine.com.au/media/world-hunger-in-focus-as-g20-leaders-meet>

²² https://www.oecd.org/development/the-humanitarian-development-peace-nexus-interim-progress-review-2f620ca5-en.htm?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=HDPnexus22&utm_content=en&utm_term=dcd

- That humanitarian assistance is global in reach, allocated on the basis of need and guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.
- That Australia pays its fair share of global humanitarian financing which now amounts to at least \$1 billion AUD per annum²³.
- Humanitarian assistance and long-term development funding mechanisms align, leverage and complement where feasible (e.g ANCP COVID-19 pivot, AHP Disaster Ready and activations) in order to address the root cause of vulnerability and crises, and build back better to reduce losses to development gains.
- Gender equality, disability and social inclusion be explicit outcomes in all humanitarian assistance with non-negotiable implementation of do no harm and safe programming.
- Investment in and prioritisation of disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action to take informed action in advance of a predicted hazard event to protect lives and livelihoods. This includes; investments in risk-informed forecasting and early warning systems, building local response capability and the establishment of anticipatory funding based on trigger indicators accessible to local actors through existing mechanisms (ie shock-responsive social protection mechanisms, contingency plans).
- Humanitarian responses are as 'green' as possible with operations powered by clean energy, employing circular economy approaches to enhance waste management, while having a net positive impact on the habitat and biodiversity of crisis-affected areas²⁴.
- The Australian Government take practical action to progress localisation through; increasing funding to local and national responders in line with the Grand Bargain agreement²⁵; ensuring adequate Indirect Cost Recovery is shared with local actors in recognition that overheads are very important for CSO's survival and sustainability²⁶; and providing funding for long-term capability development to strengthen local humanitarian leadership.

Contemporising our approach to international development and humanitarian work

The IDP should explicitly incorporate a **feminist foreign policy** approach which addresses the systems of power that create and perpetuate inequality and injustice. As more countries shift to a feminist foreign policy, Australia risks losing its place amongst the global leaders on gender equality and will miss opportunities for learning through collaboration with those countries which are leading. A feminist-informed gender transformative approach to foreign policy and international development will complement the First Nations foreign policy commitment already made by the Australian Government.

The IDP must also meaningfully operationalise the **First Nations foreign policy** commitment. OAU welcomes the October budget announcement of \$2m over 2 years to First Nations Foreign Policy measures and the establishment of an Office of First Nations Engagement, led by an Ambassador for First Nations Peoples. Our foreign policy and international development agenda must recognise

²³ https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/2022-23%20Federal%20Budget%20Analysis%20Plain%20Text.pdf

²⁴ <https://humanitarianadvisorygroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/HAG-HH2-GTS-Vision-Paper.pdf>

²⁵ https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/grand_bargain_final_22_may_final-2_0.pdf

²⁶ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/humanitarian-financing/iasc-guidance-provision-overheads-local-and-national-partners>

Australia's history as a settler state built on stolen land and cultural genocide, and work to re-centre First Nations' voices and ways of being into our projection to the world. In the first instance, we need to start the process of truth-telling and treaty. Treaty, or commitment to a Treaty process, with First Nations people is a foundational requirement for a First Nations foreign policy.

Australian development policy must adopt the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent and meaningfully consult with First Nations groups, ensuring the voices of First Nations peoples are represented in the international development space. The process towards a Voice to Parliament is welcomed. First Nations people must be seen as equal partners in policy development and must go beyond simply putting First Nations people in positions of power and rethink structures of power and value systems that underpin the marginalisation of First Nations perspectives in Australian policies and international engagement.

First Nations' perspectives are also immensely valuable in the development and delivery of a decolonisation and locally led agenda, and First Peoples' knowledges must be integrated into the policy design process.

There have been significant reflections in the international aid and development sector on the need to **decolonise** power, practice and decision making and, ensure **locally-led development** and humanitarian action. However, DFAT's increasing focus on risk management impedes localisation and locally-led development. Similarly, the annual reporting requirements are a barrier for some local organisations and the current performance reporting structure does not allow for outcomes and impact-level reporting. To address this, OAU recommends:

- The IDP embrace partnership that has decolonisation, South-South cooperation and local leadership at its core. Meaningful, two-way partnerships require sustained funding support and a systematic rethink of how the aid system works, requiring a complete shift in how decision making, planning, design, MEAL and implementation approaches are done to effectively redistribute power into the hands of local actors. Creating this shift also requires a supporting policy framework for how DFAT positions civil society within the development program, and a review of program guidelines and procedures to incentivise new ways of working that place affected individuals, communities and program participants at the heart (and decision-making table) of discussions and decisions.
- DFAT re-consider its risk appetite, with potential for risk sharing arrangements and changes to risk requirements such as a sliding scale depending on context, financing and status of partner.
- DFAT apply creative and flexible approaches to reporting and performance measurement designed with local actors, including dedicated administrative funding for on-ground delivery partners to prepare reports.
- The IDP purposefully funds and focuses on strengthening the capability for civil society, local organisations, Women's Rights Organisations and workers' organisations to receive and deliver development investment, drive the direction of international development, and influence and hold local powerholders to account. This includes long-term funding for operational capability development.

The IDP must harness **whole-of-government** effort to achieve development and humanitarian outcomes. Using the IDP to identify actions and allocate responsibilities in the Treasury, Trade, Health, Energy, Agriculture, Communications, Emergency Management, Arts, Sports and other

relevant portfolios will provide considerable benefits in delivering on objectives to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality. However, non-ODA funding through other government agencies and programs may lack the safeguards and requirements of ODA funding, such as environment protection and gender equality, and this should be addressed in policy and program design.

Examples of whole-of-government approaches to support international development include:

- Intellectual Property - the international community has not achieved a rapid and equitable roll out of COVID 19 vaccines and treatment, including by addressing systemic roadblocks within the World Trade Organisation to enable cost-effective scale-up of production and availability of medicines and technologies, thus prolonging the effects of the pandemic for lower-income countries. Australia can commit to an energetic role in influencing WTO negotiations to address monopolies and limit market concentration²⁷.
- Progressive Taxation - Australia can model a commitment to progressive taxation by repealing Stage 3 tax cuts and exercise middle power influence to enhance progressive tax and redistribution policies in the region that can help to establish and sustain social protection measures such as childcare, education and aged care, thus relieving pressure for women's unpaid and underpaid care work²⁸. Australia can influence World Bank and IMF policies that insist on low tax economies in exchange for financing and instead encourage policies that support public services and the growth of social protection systems²⁹.

Capability required to deliver the new IDP

To effectively deliver on a more ambitious IDP, the Australian government requires increased capability which can be drawn from across the aid and development sector. OAU recommends:

- DFAT invest in growing a small but skilled pool of development practitioners who can work across the department to ensure ODA is best leveraged to deliver the IDP. This requires sophisticated understanding of geopolitics as well as thematic/sectoral (ie governance, gender, disability, climate), humanitarian and development expertise.
- DFAT invests in development and humanitarian skills and knowledge across the Australian Public Service to support the whole-of-government approach for the IDP.
- DFAT prioritise skills and capabilities in development effectiveness, program quality, research and learning.
- DFAT draw on multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral partnerships including NGOs, academia, ACFID.
- DFAT continue its decentralised approach and place greater value on regional knowledge, including working with people with lived experience and contextual knowledge.

²⁷ <https://oxfamibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621341/bp-inequality-kills-170122-en.pdf>

²⁸ <https://oxfamibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621303/gd-care-principles-barometer-IFIs-061221-en.pdf?sequence=1>

²⁹ <https://www.eurodad.org/our-future-is-public-why-the-imf-and-world-bank-must-support-public-services>