



## 2017 ANNUAL AID EVALUATION PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

This is the first Annual Aid Evaluation Plan produced by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). It outlines the independent evaluations of aid funding which DFAT plans to complete and publish in 2017.

The Annual Aid Evaluation Plan is a key part of DFAT's new [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 independently initiated, managed and conducted by ODE. They typically examine a number of investments, often across multiple countries, regions or sectors.

The following principles guide the selection of strategic evaluation topics:

- » Policy relevance: assessing progress on implementation of the Australian Government's policy priorities
- » Potential learning benefits: focusing on areas where there is a strong demand for insight, information or guidance
- » 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.

ODE will complete and publish five strategic evaluations in 2017, as outlined in Table 1. All strategic evaluations will have a management response which will be completed by the relevant DFAT division.



Table 1: Strategic evaluations to be published in 2017

Topic
Humanitarian assistance in the Pacific: The effectiveness of Australia's response to Cyclone Pam
Combatting pandemics & emerging infectious diseases
Electoral systems strengthening
Disability-inclusive development
Climate change assistance

Further details on strategic evaluations, as well as ODE's complete forward work program, are available in the ODE work plan.

## 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, a total of 41 program evaluations will be published in 2017. All program evaluations will include a management response which will be completed by the relevant DFAT program.

Note that some programs will not finalise any evaluations in 2017 (see Table 3). It is expected such programs will undertake evaluations in 2018 and beyond.

## REPORTING

The 2018 Annual Aid Evaluation Plan will report on progress against the 2017 Annual Aid Evaluation Plan, outlining which strategic and program evaluations have been completed and published.

Table 2: Program evaluations to be published in 2017

Program	Planned evaluations
<b>PACIFIC</b>	
<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	<p><b>1) Australian Transport Sector Support Program Phase 2</b> The evaluation aims to improve performance of this \$400m investment, which focusses on building a safe, reliable transport system.</p>
	<p><b>2) Bougainville Governance Program</b> The evaluation will review the success and improve the performance of Australia’s capacity building support for the Autonomous Bougainville Government.</p>
	<p><b>3) Australian response to El Nino in PNG</b> The evaluation will examine Australia’s response to El Nino in PNG to inform future humanitarian efforts.</p>
	<p><b>4) PNG Health and HIV Multilateral Partnership</b> The evaluation will review the success of Australia’s \$68.5m support to multilateral organisations working to improve health outcomes in PNG.</p>
	<p><b>5) Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development, including PNG bilateral funding</b> The evaluation will review the achievements and challenges of the \$58m PNG component of this investment, which aims to improve the political, economic and social opportunities for Pacific women.</p>
<b>Pacific Regional</b>	<p><b>1) Pacific Financial Inclusion Program</b> The evaluation will inform future implementation of this multi-donor investment, which aims to increase access to financial services among low income households.</p>
	<p><b>2) Partnerships for Health and Rights</b> The evaluation will examine the outcomes of Australia’s \$4.5m support to the International Planned Parenthood Federation, which is working to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Pacific.</p>
	<p><b>3) Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development</b> The evaluation will examine progress of this \$320m investment after its third year of implementation. The investment aims to improve the political, economic and social opportunities for Pacific women.</p>
<b>Solomon Islands</b>	<p><b>1) Education Sector Program 2 – Annual Joint Performance Review</b> This \$71m investment supports three areas: basic education, technical and vocational education, and scholarships. A joint review will be conducted by Australia, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands to assess whether mutual accountabilities have been met.</p>
	<p><b>2) Education Sector Program 2 – Mid-term review</b> An independent team will examine the long-term performance of the above investment.</p>
	<p><b>3) Health Sector Support Program Phase 3</b> The evaluation aims to assess progress against key performance indicators for this \$66m investment, which supports the Solomon Islands Government to provide health services to its citizens.</p>



Fiji	<b>1) Fiji Community Development program</b> This \$21.4m investment aims to alleviate social and economic hardship through civil society organisations. The evaluation will assess program results and compile lessons for DFAT's future work with civil society.
	<b>2) Access to Quality Education program</b> The evaluation will examine the effectiveness and sustainability of this \$50m investment, which was designed to improve access to quality basic education.
Vanuatu	<b>1) Tropical Cyclone Pam Recovery program</b> Following Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015, Australia committed \$35m for long-term recovery projects. The evaluation will examine the progress of this work.
Samoa	<b>1) Samoa Inclusive Education Demonstration program</b> This investment was designed to support Samoa's Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture to transition to inclusive education in Samoa. The evaluation will identify lessons learned and make recommendations to inform the Governments of Samoa and Australia's future support to inclusive education in Samoa.
North Pacific	<b>1) Cleared Ground De-Mining project in Palau</b> The evaluation will verify the outcomes of Australia's support to clearing unexploded ordnance in Palau.
<b>SOUTH EAST ASIA</b>	
Indonesia	<b>1) Australia's Education Partnership</b> The evaluation will examine the results of this \$369m investment, which focussed on improving education service delivery and achieving the Government of Indonesia's policy goals for access, quality and governance in basic education.
	<b>2) Australia Indonesia Partnership Rural Economic Development Program</b> This \$112m investment aims to influence how agricultural markets work for the poor. The evaluation will improve the investment's performance and demonstrate results achieved to date.
	<b>3) Eastern Indonesia National Road Improvement Project</b> The final evaluation will document and disseminate learnings from this \$326m investment, which supported 20 major road projects across Indonesia.
	<b>4) Indonesia Infrastructure Initiative Phase 2</b> The evaluation will assess the continuing impact of this \$239.4m investment, which works with the Indonesian Government to address constraints to infrastructure investment.
Timor-Leste	<b>1) National Program for Village Development Support Program</b> Australia's \$42m funding assists the Government of Timor-Leste to provides grants to communities for small scale infrastructure projects. The evaluation will verify results achieved and develop recommendations to inform the investment's next phase.
	<b>2) Australian support for improved nutrition in Timor-Leste</b> Australia addresses malnutrition in Timor-Leste in a number of investments across different sectors. This evaluation will assess the effectiveness of activities and approaches and will inform future activities.



Philippines	<b>1) Australia's support for peace in Mindanao</b> Australia is supporting efforts for sustainable peace in Mindanao, including by supporting a more credible and widely supported process and improving institutional capacity to implement the peace agreement. The evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the program to date and will provide advice on Australia's wider support for peace in Mindanao.
	<b>2) Basic Education Sector Transformation Program</b> The evaluation will assess the impact to date of this \$150m investment, which supports the Philippines' education reform agenda. It will also provide recommendations for adjustments to the program going forward.
Cambodia	<b>1) 3i – Investing in Infrastructure</b> This \$45.4m investment works with the private sector to stimulate investment in small-scale infrastructure, and to support new opportunities for trade-related businesses. The evaluation will examine the investment's results and provide lessons for future implementation.
	<b>2) Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Phase 1</b> This ex-post evaluation of the investment's first phase will assess the effectiveness of the program, with a focus on the agricultural irrigation schemes constructed as part of this investment. The evaluation will also look at the market development activities of CAVAC I.
Vietnam	<b>1) Integrated Coastal Management Program</b> This \$16.6m investment assists Vietnam to manage and protect its coastal ecosystems. The evaluation will examine progress and performance to date.
	<b>2) Southern Coastal Corridor program</b> The evaluation will assess performance on completion of this investment, in which Australia provided \$45m for road upgrades which will link key economic zones in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.
	<b>3) Mekong Transport Infrastructure project</b> This \$48m investment is improving access to markets and services for the rural poor by upgrading rural roads and transport canals, and by building new wharfs and storage areas. The evaluation will assess the investment's performance and results.
Myanmar	<b>1) Myanmar Decentralising Funding for Schools project</b> The evaluation will verify the performance of Australia's \$32.5m education investment, which supports the Myanmar Government's program to provide reliable and timely operating grants to 45,000 schools and stipends to nearly 150,000 poor students to help keep them in school.
South East Asia Regional	<b>1) Mekong Business Initiative</b> This \$13.2m investment focusses on improving the business enabling environment in emerging Mekong markets (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam). The evaluation will assess progress against the investment's objectives.
	<b>2) Greater Mekong Water Resources program</b> The evaluation will assess this investment's approach to policy dialogue and provide recommendations to improve that approach.
<b>SOUTH ASIA</b>	
Afghanistan	<b>1) Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund</b> Australia has provided \$395.6m to this multi-donor, multi-sector trust fund. The evaluation will assess the trust fund's performance and fitness for purpose.
	<b>2) Australia Afghanistan Community Resilience Scheme</b> The evaluation will examine this \$25m investment, which brings together non-government organisations and the Afghanistan Government to improve the livelihoods and resilience of rural communities.



<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>1) Support to Vulnerable Communities in Cox's Bazar</b> Australia supports the World Food Programme to enhance food security and nutrition in the Cox's Bazar district. The evaluation will assess the results of the investment's second phase.
<b>Pakistan</b>	<b>1) Pakistan Ending Violence Against Women Program</b> The evaluation will assess progress and improve implementation of this \$7.46m investment, which provides support to women affected by violence and builds the capacity of police, medical institutions and the judiciary.
	<b>2) Pakistan Trade and Investment Policy Program</b> The evaluation will assess progress and provide recommendations on future focus areas for this \$9.9m investment, which supports Pakistan to increase regional trade and investment.
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>1) Community Forestry program</b> Australia has supported various community forestry programs in Sri Lanka for more than 15 years. This evaluation will assess the outcomes of the latest of these programs.
<b>Nepal</b>	<b>1) Australia's response to Nepal earthquakes</b> The evaluation will review the effectiveness of, and identify lessons from, Australia's response to the 2015 earthquakes in Nepal.
<b>HUMANITARIAN</b>	
<b>Humanitarian (including Emergency Fund)</b>	<b>1) Tropical Cyclone Winston education response</b> The evaluation will assess whether Australia's humanitarian investments in the education sector following Tropical Cyclone Winston were timely, effective and appropriate.
	<b>2) Australia's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar</b> The evaluation will inform multi-year humanitarian planning for Myanmar and identify lessons for protracted humanitarian crisis programming in the Indo-Pacific region.



Table 3: Aid programs which will undertake evaluations in future years

Innovation Fund
Australian Volunteers Program
Direct Aid Program
Sector strategies
Agriculture, Fisheries and Water strategy
Development for All strategy (disability)
Health for Development strategy
Aid for Trade strategy
Economic Infrastructure strategy
Effective Governance strategy
Private Sector Development strategy
Social protection strategy
Education strategy
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment strategy