

# Australian Council for International Development



## HELPING PEOPLE OVERCOME POVERTY INVESTING IN COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

**ACFID Submission to the 2012-13 Federal Budget  
January 2012**



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## **Contact**

Questions, comments and feedback about the ACFID 2012-13 Pre-Budget Submission can be directed to:

Joy Kyriacou  
 Advocacy and Media Adviser  
[jkyriacou@acfid.asn.au](mailto:jkyriacou@acfid.asn.au) or (02) 6281 9219

Dr Susan Harris Rimmer  
 Manager, Advocacy and Development Practice  
[sharris@acfid.asn.au](mailto:sharris@acfid.asn.au) or (02) 6281 9221

**Cover Image:** Phan was falling behind in school until he had his eyesight restored, thanks to a Doctor trained by The Fred Hollows Foundation. He now has greater hope for the future and can enjoy attending school with his friends.  
 Photo: Cambodia. The Fred Hollows Foundation

## About the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

ACFID is the peak body for Australian non-government organisations (ANGOs) working in the field of international aid and development. ACFID has 77 member organisations which operate in over 100 developing countries. With more than 45 years of experience working collaboratively with communities and governments, we bring a critical perspective on international development issues to discussions with the Australian Government.

ACFID administers a rigorous Code of Conduct which represents the active commitment of 120 Australian overseas aid organisations to strive for best practice and integrity, transparency and accountability in their work. Our Code was reviewed and strengthened in 2010, and now covers 50 principles and over 150 obligations for signatories. It has an annual compliance process and includes an independent committee for assessing complaints.

ACFID represents an independent sector and the Australian community forms our supporter base.

### ACFID Member Organisations:

40K Foundation Australia	Burnet Institute	Marie Stopes International Australia
Act for Peace – National Council of Churches Australia	Care Australia	Mercy Works Inc.
ActionAid Australia	Caring and Living as Neighbours (CLAN)	Mission World Aid Inc.
ADRA Australia	Caritas Australia	Motivation Australia
Afghan Australian Development Organisation	CBM Australia	Nusa Tenggara Association Inc.
Anglican Board of Mission - Australia Limited	Charities Aid Foundation**	Opportunity International Australia
AngliCORD	ChildFund Australia	Oxfam Australia
Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief and Aid Fund	Credit Union Foundation Australia	OzGREEN - Global Rivers Environmental Education Network Australia Inc.
Assisi Aid Projects	Emergency Architects Australia Ltd	Partners in Aid
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine	Foresight (Overseas Aid and Prevention of Blindness)	Plan International Australia
Australia for UNHCR	Fred Hollows Foundation, The	Project Vietnam
Australian Aid International	Friends of the Earth (Australia)	Quaker Service Australia
Australian Business Volunteers	Global Development Group	RedR Australia
Australian Conservation Foundation	GraceWorks Myanmar	Refugee Council of Australia*
Australian Doctors for Africa**	Habitat for Humanity Australia	RESULTS Australia
Australian Doctors International	HealthServe Australia	Salesian Society Incorporated
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations	Hunger Project Australia, The	Save the Children Australia
Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific	International Centre for Eyecare Education	Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia
Australian Himalayan Foundation	International Nepal Fellowship (Aust) Ltd	TEAR Australia
Australian Lutheran World Service	International Women's Development Agency	Transparency International Australia
Australian Marist Solidarity Ltd	Interplast Australia – Royal Australasian College of Surgeons	Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA
Australian Medical Aid Foundation	Islamic Relief**	UnitingWorld
Australian Red Cross*	Lasallian Foundation	WaterAid Australia
Australian Respiratory Council	Leprosy Mission Australia, The	World Education Australia Limited
Australian Volunteers International	Live & Learn Environmental Education	World Vision Australia
Baptist World Aid Australia		WWF Australia

*\* Denotes Consulting Affiliates*

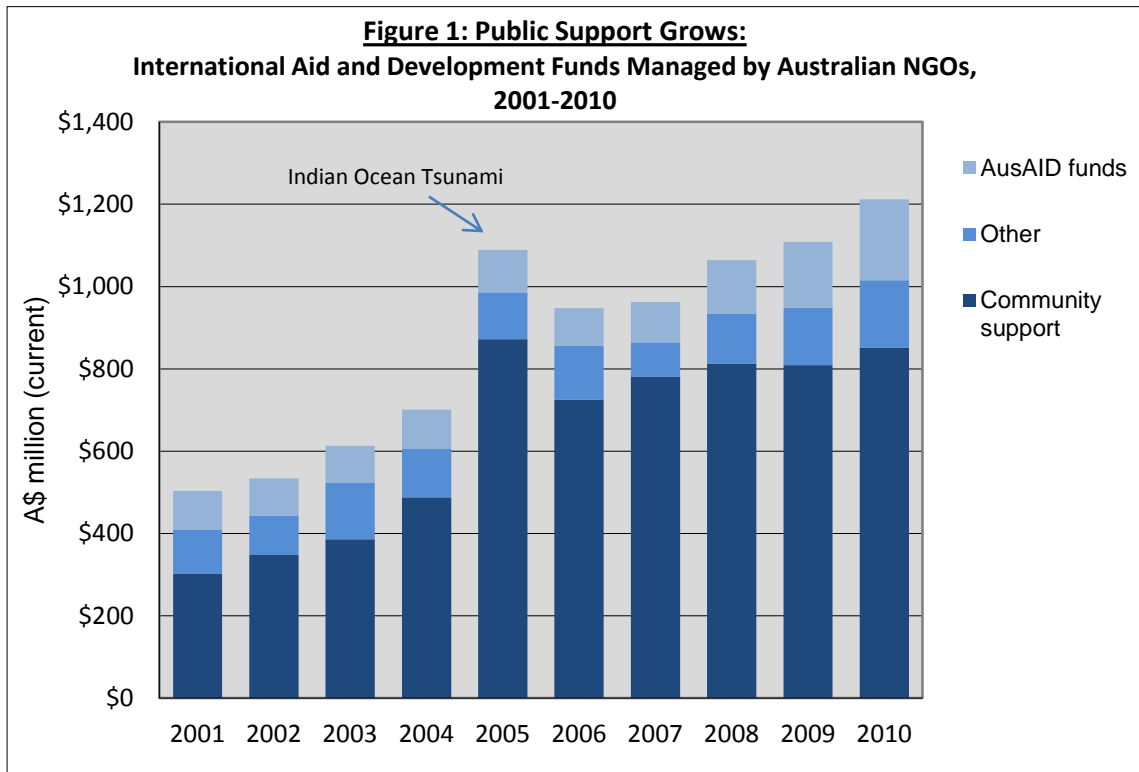
*\*\* Denotes Preliminary Members*



## Australian Public Support for International Aid

In 2010, more than **2 million Australian households** donated to international aid NGOs and a further 94,000 individuals gave their time as volunteers. For most supporters, their donations and time represent a life-long commitment.

Since 2001, Australian public support through direct donations to international aid charities has been steadily on the rise. As shown below, Australian public donations make up the bulk (over 70%) of all revenue for the international aid sector in Australia. Our most recent survey shows that over \$850 million was donated by the public to Australian aid and development NGOs in 2010. Only 16% of total revenue comes from the Government.



Beyond these figures, thousands more Australians participate in NGO campaigns and activities each year, including through Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History. During 2011 Anti-Poverty Week, people from across Australia participated in the Make Poverty History 'Keep the Promise' campaign, focused on the promise wealthy countries have made to assist the world's poorest people.



Parents, students and teachers from St Luke Evangelist Catholic Primary School in Blackburn South, Victoria, ask politicians to 'Keep the Promise' to the world's poorest people for 2011 Anti-Poverty Week. The school's message reads: *Today as a school we reflected on the action of helping to make poverty history. United as parents, students and teachers we came together to shake hands and try to help keep the promise of "Making Poverty History."*

## Australia's Aid and Development Commitments

This submission to the 2012-13 Federal Budget does not call for additional aid money, rather we have used evidence and extensive experience to argue how the Government should allocate some of the planned scale-up to 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015-16 in the most effective ways.

ACFID sees two key areas as central to framing our recommendations for Australian international development assistance in 2012-13; the bipartisan commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the 2011 Independent Review into Aid Effectiveness.

### 1. Increasing our ODA to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, 189 Heads of State and Government, including former Australian Prime Minister John Howard, agreed to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. There are bipartisan commitments to these goals and to increasing our aid program to 0.5% of GNI by 2015 in order to assist in reaching them:

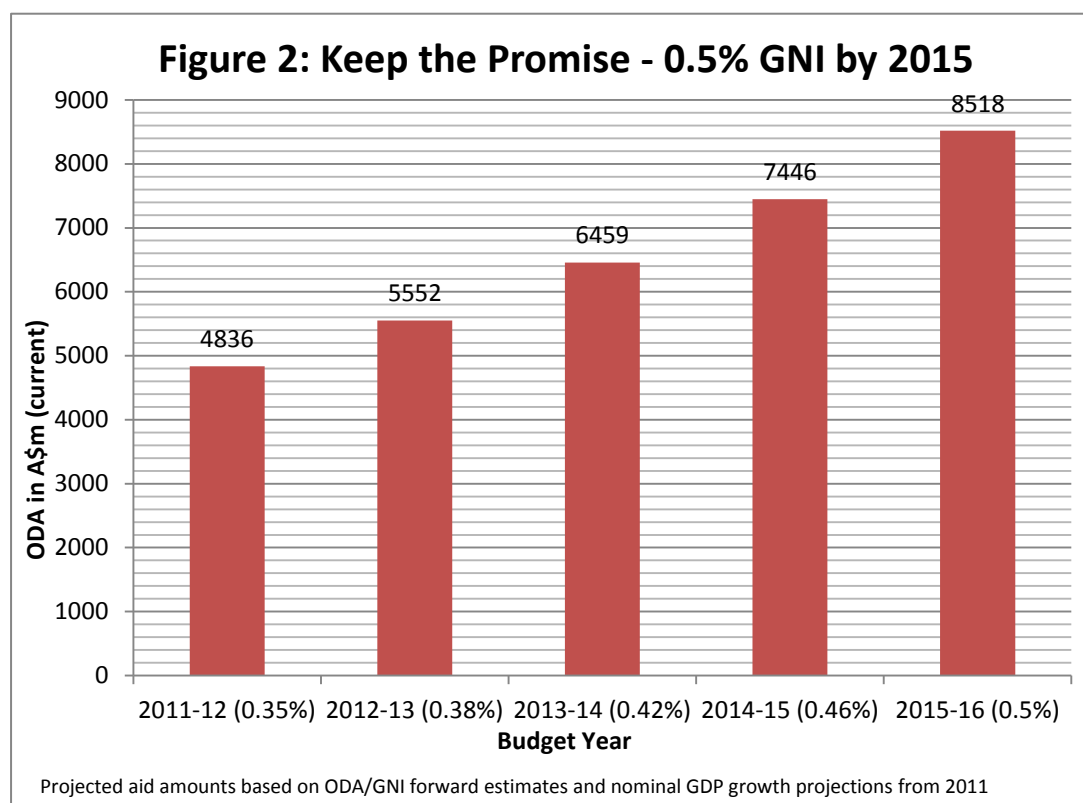
*"We align ourselves with the Millennium Development Goals...because as Australians it is not in our nature to be indifferent to the sufferings of others."*

– The Hon. Kevin Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs<sup>1</sup>

*"The Coalition believes that the aid budget should be quarantined from what is often euphemistically called 'fiscal consolidation'...The Coalition stands by its commitment to increase foreign aid spending to 0.5 per cent of our Gross National Income by 2015-16."*

– The Hon. Julie Bishop, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs<sup>2</sup>

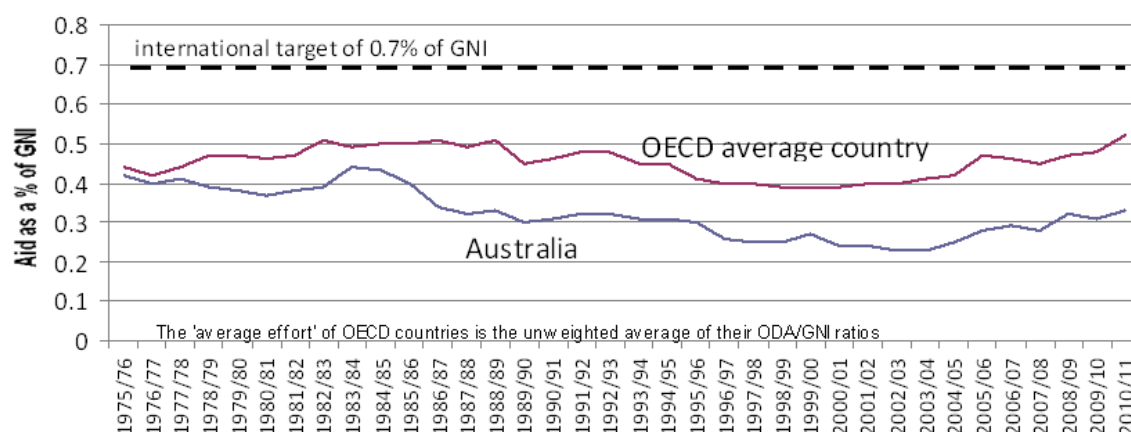
To stay on track to reach 0.5% of GNI for aid by 2015-16, 0.38% of GNI needs to be allocated towards ODA in the 2012-13 Federal Budget, with further increments outlined in Figure 2 below.



<sup>1</sup> The Hon. Kevin Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs, *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a real difference - delivering real results*, Launch of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness and the Governments Response, (Parliament House), 6 July 2011.

<sup>2</sup> The Hon. Julie Bishop, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, *Address to Australian Council for International Development - Policy priorities for aid and development assistance*, (ACFID Council 2010), Canberra 22 October 2010.

**Figure 3: Australia's aid budget lags behind the OECD average**



Source: DAC Development Cooperation Reports 1982-2010, AusAID budget

#### 50 cents in every \$100 for aid is a modest goal:

- Australia is now the wealthiest country in the world, according to a new report by Credit Suisse which compares the average wealth of adults by country.<sup>3</sup>
- Even with an increase in 2012-13, our aid spend will be roughly equal to the cost of one cup of coffee a week for every Australian.
- When we reach 0.5% of GNI to aid, we are likely to still be in the middle of the pack when compared to our OECD counterparts – not at the head of the pack.

## 2. The Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness

ACFID's recommendations for the 2012-13 Federal Budget are framed around the recommendations of the Independent Aid Review<sup>4</sup> and the Government's Response<sup>5</sup>, which were welcomed by the Coalition.<sup>6</sup> We have paid particular attention to the geographic recommendations of the Aid Review and to providing recommendations which will assist the Government to pursue the five new strategic goals of Australia's aid program.<sup>7</sup> In addition, **all recommendations cover the four-year period to 2015-16**, in line with the recommendation of the Independent Aid Review, agreed to by the Government, that a four year, Cabinet-endorsed strategy for the entire aid program be developed.

#### Strategic Goals of the Aid Program:

- 1. Saving lives:** Improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation; Saving the lives of poor women and children through greater access to quality maternal and child health services; and supporting large scale disease prevention, vaccination and treatment.
- 2. Promoting opportunities for all:** Giving more children access to school; Empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education; Enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.
- 3. Sustainable economic development:** Improving food security; Improving incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities; Reducing the negative impacts of climate change and other environmental factors.
- 4. Effective governance:** Improving governance to deliver better services, improve security, and enhance justice and human rights.
- 5. Humanitarian and disaster response:** More effective preparedness and response to disasters and crises.

<sup>3</sup> Credit Suisse, *Global Wealth Report*, October 2011

<sup>4</sup> Hollway, S., *Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness*, (Commonwealth of Australia), April 2011

<sup>5</sup> Australian Government, *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a real difference—delivering real results*, (Commonwealth of Australia), 2011.

<sup>6</sup> The Hon. Julie Bishop, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, Media Release: *Review of Aid Effectiveness*, 6 July 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Australian Government, op. cit., p. 4.

**Table 1: Summary of Recommendations**

	Recommendation		Year 1 - 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2 - 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3 - 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4 - 2015-16 \$AUm	Accumulated Total \$AUm
Key Recommendations	<b>Recommendation 1:</b> 'Team Australia'- \$469 million over four years towards initiating Country and Regional Partnership Agreements with NGOs		50.0	136.0	141.0	142.0	469.0
	<b>Recommendation 2:</b> \$300 million over four years to invest in Female Health Workers		50.0	70.0	85.0	95.0	300.0
	<b>Recommendation 3:</b> \$140 million over four years to improve Sexual and Reproductive Health		41.6	33.0	33.0	32.4	140.0
	<b>Recommendation 4:</b> The Forgotten Emergencies Fund – \$56 million over four years to Strengthen our Humanitarian Response		8.0	12.0	16.0	20.0	56.0
	<b>Recommendation 5:</b> \$360 million over four years to Build Peace and Security		51.0	79.0	106.0	124.0	360.0
The Pacific	<b>Recommendation 6:</b> Protecting our Climate Change Investment	6.1	Continue AusAID's current program commitment	20.0	35.0	45.0	100.0
		6.2		10.0	10.0	10.0	40.0
	<b>Recommendation 7:</b> \$10 million over four years to Help Young Women and Girls Become Leaders in the Pacific		1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	10.0
	<b>Recommendation 8:</b> \$150 million over four years towards Stopping Violence Against Women in the Pacific		15.0	25.0	50.0	60.0	150.0
	<b>Recommendation 9:</b> Addressing the needs of People with Disabilities in the Pacific	9.1	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	15.0
		9.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6.0
		9.3	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	50.0
	<b>Recommendation 10:</b> Combatting Avoidable Blindness	10.1	5.0	9.0	11.3	11.3	36.6
		10.2	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	10.0
		10.3	0.8	1.2	1.8	1.8	5.6
		10.4	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.8	2.5
	<b>Recommendation 11:</b> Increased Funding for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the Pacific	11.1	20.0	35.0	55.0	75.0	185.0
		11.2	6.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	34.0
East Asia	<b>Recommendation 12:</b> Women's Empowerment in East Asia	12.1	10.0	12.0	18.0	25.0	65.0
		12.2	5.0	8.0	13.0	19.0	45.0
		12.3	3.0	6.0	11.0	18.0	38.0
		12.4	2.0	4.0	8.0	13.0	27.0
	<b>Recommendation 13:</b> Strengthening Humanitarian and Disaster Response in East Asia	13.1	9.0	18.0	18.0	26.0	71.0
		13.2	6.0	12.0	12.0	17.0	47.0
		13.3	3.0	6.0	6.0	9.0	24.0
		13.4	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	10.0
		13.5	6.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	48.0
	<b>Recommendation 14:</b> \$47.6 million over four years for Avoidable Blindness Initiatives in East Asia		5.0	8.0	14.0	20.6	47.6
	<b>Recommendation 15:</b> \$15 million over four years for assistance to Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border		3.5	3.5	4.0	4.0	15.0
	<b>Recommendation 16:</b> \$50 million over four years for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Cambodia		5.0	10.0	15.0	20.0	50.0
South and West Asia	<b>Recommendation 17:</b> \$100 million over four years for a South and West Asia Human Rights Regional Fund		10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0	100.0
	<b>Recommendation 18:</b> \$150 million over four years for Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan		15.0	30.0	45.0	60.0	150.0
	<b>Recommendation 19:</b> \$50 million over four years for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Nepal		5.0	10.0	15.0	20.0	50.0



<i>Table Cont'd</i>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Year 1 - 2012-13 \$AUm</b>	<b>Year 2 - 2013-14 \$AUm</b>	<b>Year 3 - 2014-15 \$AUm</b>	<b>Year 4 - 2015-16 \$AUm</b>	<b>Accumulated Total \$AUm</b>
<b>Africa and the Middle East</b>	<b>Recommendation 20:</b> \$380 million over four years towards investment in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) across Africa	50.0	70.0	110.0	150.0	<b>380.0</b>
	<b>Recommendation 21:</b> \$200 million over four years towards Building Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa	35.0	55.0	60.0	50.0	<b>200.0</b>
	<b>Recommendation 22:</b> \$20 million over four years to support Vocational Training in the Palestinian Territories and for Palestinian Refugees	2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	<b>20.0</b>
<b>Latin America</b>	<b>Recommendation 23:</b> \$5 million over four years to support Rural Livelihoods	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	<b>5.0</b>
	<b>Recommendation 24:</b> \$3.2 million over four years to provide Economic Opportunities to Youth	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	<b>3.2</b>
	<b>Recommendation 25:</b> \$2.3 million over four years towards Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives in Latin America	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	<b>2.3</b>
	<b>Recommendation 26:</b> \$1.8 million over four years for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Latin America	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	<b>1.8</b>
	<b>Totals \$AUm</b>	<b>254.6</b>	<b>754.4</b>	<b>981.0</b>	<b>1179.0</b>	<b>3369.6</b>

## Key Recommendations<sup>8</sup>

### Recommendation 1: 'Team Australia'- \$469 million over four years towards initiating Country and Regional Partnership Agreements with NGOs

The Government's Response to the Aid Effectiveness Review stressed that *"It is important that the world recognises that Australian aid is Australian aid"* [Government's emphasis].<sup>9</sup>

This proposal capitalises on the strong connection between Australian NGOs (ANGOs) and the Australian public. It proposes that ANGOs work with the Australian Government through a *'Team Australia'* approach. The proposal is aimed at ensuring that our partnerships grow in the most effective, coherent manner possible. Further impact on the ground can be achieved by aligning existing NGO capacities and country presence with AusAID country strategies and priority sectors. This can be done by initiating a greater use of partnership agreements between the Government and ANGOs, focused on geographical regions and countries.

ACFID proposes the establishment of 10 country-based and regional four-year Partnership Agreements between the Australian Government and ANGOs, totalling \$469 million over four years to 2015-16.

#### Links to Government Commitments:

Initiating Partnership Agreements with Australian NGOs would directly support **Strategic Goal 4** of the aid program by **strengthening civil society**. The other Goals of the aid program would also be supported through the work of ANGOs. In addition, this recommendation supports the following **Government Commitments** as part of the Response to the Aid Review:<sup>10</sup>

10. The aid program should **increase its emphasis on** private sector development and **strengthening civil society**. Policy statements in relation to each should be developed.

15. **Core funding to multilateral organisations and NGOs should be significantly increased** as a share of total spending. Core funding increases should be made on a case-by-case basis, linked to effectiveness, capacity, and relevance.

16. AusAID should devote **greater senior management resources to developing and managing relationships with key partners**. **Predictable, multi-year funding of partners should be provided** and micromanagement avoided.

17. **AusAID's existing accreditation system should be used as a basis for ANGOs to access increased funding**. AusAID should consider further means to improve the accreditation process for small NGOs.

**Table 2: Proposed Partnership Agreements**

Partnership Agreements	Year 1 2012-13 \$Aum <sup>11</sup>	Year 2 2013-14 \$Aum	Year 3 2014 -15 \$Aum	Year 4 2015-16 \$Aum	Total \$Aum
Pacific Regional		3	5	6	14
Papua New Guinea		7	10	10	27
Solomon Islands		6	6	6	18
Mekong Regional (Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos)	30	30	30	30	120
Indonesia		15	15	15	45
East Timor		10	10	10	30
Burma	10	10	10	10	40
South Asia regional: (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal)		40	40	40	120
Afghanistan	10	10	10	10	40
Latin America		5	5	5	15
<b>Total of all agreements:</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>469</b>

<sup>8</sup> All funding proposals cover the four-year period to 2015-16, in line with the recommendation of the Independent Aid Review, agreed to by the Government, that a four-year, Cabinet endorsed strategy for the entire aid program be developed. Care has been taken to propose funding allocations within this submission that align to: a) the Government's priorities as set out in the Government's Response to the Aid Review, b) current and proposed overseas development assistance levels to developing countries as set out in past Budget Papers and the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, c) need in developing countries; and, d) the absorptive capacity of Australian NGOs and their in-country partners. Importantly, funding proposals set out here should be taken as a guide and are not prescriptive figures.

<sup>9</sup> Australian Government, op. cit., p. 3.

<sup>10</sup> Australian Government, pp. 61-62.

<sup>11</sup> Different starting years reflect where Government has engaged directly with ANGOs on policy and programming and a basis for starting a Partnership in year 1 is considered viable, while other years reflect a year of discussion and design preceding programming.

The Partnership Agreements would utilise the existing AusAID Cooperation Agreement policy and model, but with a greater mutual investment in policy dialogue, research, development awareness activities with the Australian public, and administrative outsourcing by AusAID to NGO-run secretariats in countries and/or regions.

Table 3 below shows the scope to initiate either new partnership agreements in countries/regions where they are absent and where ANGO presence and spending is significant; or to re-design Cooperation Agreements that have recently come to an end, in light of the recommendations of the Aid Effectiveness Review.

**Table 3: Comparison of ANGO country spending through community-raised funds versus Government funds**

Regions and Selected Countries	Names of Existing or recently completed AusAID NGO Partnership agreements <sup>12</sup>	2009-10 ANGO spending of Australian public donations	Total 2009-10 AusAID Funding to NGOs via ANCP & including Cooperation Agreements
Pacific Regional	-	\$5,270,907	\$11,793,902
Papua New Guinea	PNG Churches Partnership Program in health @ \$23.7 million	\$8,724,257	\$28,173,884
Solomon Islands	SI Cooperation agreement @ \$5.2 million	\$3,688,940	\$10,572,432
Mekong Regional (Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos)	Vietnam Australia NGO Cooperation Agreement (VANGOCA) 2005-2010 \$20 million  Laos Australia NGO Cooperation Agreement (LANGOCA) 2005-2010 \$14 million  Australia -Cambodia Cooperation Agreement (ACCA) 2004-2009 \$21 million	Vietnam: \$20,594,799  Laos: \$10,441,005  Cambodia: \$14,838,552	Vietnam: \$16,015,371  Laos: \$9,309,237  Cambodia: \$19,043,939
Indonesia	-	\$11,794,757	\$4,215,882
East Timor	-	\$9,427,284	\$ 3,622,060
Burma	Periodic Funding for Humanitarian Assistance Burma (PFHAB) 2007- 2011 \$10 mil	\$9,179,464	\$ 19,813,157
Afghanistan	-	\$1,898,202	\$11,607,016
Pakistan	-	\$14,008,740	\$14,438,547
India	-	\$14,876,122	\$2,600,368
Sri Lanka	-	\$6,978,480	\$4,223,412
Bangladesh	-	\$8,773,808	\$2,345,652
Nepal	-	\$4,369,035	\$1,301,284
Latin America	-	<b>\$43,203,901</b>	<b>\$3,264,662</b>

<sup>12</sup> AusAID Cooperation Agreement Descriptions 2007, <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/ngos/pdfs/capfa.pdf>

## Why Partnership Agreements?

### 1. Australian NGO impact on the lives of the poor:

The Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness found NGOs to be effective partners in the delivery of Australian aid and supported increased funding to NGOs as the aid program scales up, using the AusAID Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).<sup>13</sup>

Through ANCP, which rigorously accredits ANGOs, AusAID-funded ANGO interventions have benefited significant numbers of poor people in some of the most vulnerable communities of Asia, the Pacific and Africa. For example, **in the single year of 2007-8, it is estimated by AusAID that more than 2.3 million people benefited directly and 12.6 million indirectly<sup>14</sup> from over 350 ANGO activities supported by ANCP funding alone.**

#### **Proven impact: examples of successful AusAID-NGO Partnerships**

The Australian **PNG Churches Partnership Program**, which focuses on provision of health services, has been extended because of its success. It has been reviewed as effective and essential to meeting the health needs of communities.<sup>15</sup> Over 50% of health services in PNG are provided by the Churches, and this program works with seven church health systems supported by their Australian NGO partners.

The **Australian Partnerships with African Communities (APAC)** cooperation agreement delivered results in key areas of priority for the Australian aid program in Africa – including food security, communicable diseases (including HIV/AIDS) and water & sanitation. The program successfully increased the reach of government and donor services to some of the most vulnerable groups in society. The UK based Overseas Development Institute found that:

*“The success of the [APAC] program lay in harnessing the added-value of Australian NGOs and their partners by going beyond the provision of basic needs through citizen empowerment, capacity building, and engagement with local governments to enhance results for the poor.”<sup>16</sup> Importantly, this cooperation agreement strengthened the broader Australian Africa program: “the relationships, contextual understanding, and evidence base developed through a program like APAC can form a valuable compliment to inform AusAID’s broader engagement in Africa. This is particularly the case as AusAID seeks to rapidly expand its engagement in Africa from a relatively low base.”<sup>17</sup>*

### 2. Capacity to work in ways and places that other partners cannot:

Through our programs on the ground and our in-country partners, ANGOs reach populations that are not reached by other organisations that deliver Australian aid. This was recognised by the Foreign Minister in 2010 when he said “Your position as independent actors and your deep community connections mean **you can deliver in places and in ways that others, including governments, cannot.**”<sup>18</sup>

### 3. A connection with the Australian public: “Team Australia”

As is highlighted in the Aid Review, public engagement and debate about Australian aid serves to enhance the effectiveness of our aid program.<sup>19</sup> ANGOs are principally supported by the Australian public, and actively work to educate Australians about the impacts of development. As partners with the government, we regularly communicate back to our public supporters about the value and effectiveness of Australian aid. The community has consistently demonstrated support for charitable pursuits, including aid and development, and the Australian public is ranked as the most generous in the world in private giving.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Hollway, S., op. cit., especially chapter 10, ‘Partnerships with Multilateral and Non Government Organisations’.

<sup>14</sup> An indirect beneficiary receives a benefit though, or as a result of, another person or entity that has received a benefit. For example, if a woman is trained in micro-finance and sets up a business then she may also create benefits for other people who may be suppliers, may transport her to market, and /or by providing services to her village that may not have been there previously.

<sup>15</sup> Australian Government, *Australian Aid to Health Service Delivery in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu – Evaluation Report*, (Commonwealth of Australia), June 2009

<sup>16</sup> Fiona Samuels, Victoria James and Kerry Sylvester, [Beyond Basic Needs: Programming for marginalised and vulnerable groups – The Australian Partnerships with African Communities \(APAC\) Programme](#), ODI, 2009.

<sup>17</sup> Bennett, C, et al, [Review of Australian Partnerships with African Communities Final Report](#), September 2009

<sup>18</sup> The Hon. Kevin Rudd, op. cit.

<sup>19</sup> Hollway, op. cit., pp. 306-307.

<sup>20</sup> See World Giving Index 2010; and Lowy Institute Poll 2010 showing the majority of Australian’s support the level of Australian aid.

## Recommendation 2: \$300 million over four years to invest in Female Health Workers

At the UN in September 2010, Minister Rudd committed Australia to an International Alliance to improve reproductive, maternal and newborn health, saying “we need to support country leadership, and make the investment case for more resources in return for better results.”<sup>21</sup> The Alliance states the problem as follows:

*Only half of the 123 million women who give birth each year receive the antenatal, delivery and newborn care they need; and progress in reducing deaths has been slower for newborn deaths than for deaths among children ages one month to five years.*

*Some 1,400 women and adolescent girls will die needlessly from the most natural act of giving birth every day— one every minute. In every generation, ten million mothers die, leaving ten million families bereft. Nearly all of these women die in developing countries. Globally, over 8.1 million children under the age of five died in 2009.*<sup>22</sup>

ACFID recommends that the Australian Government boosts its efforts to improve maternal and child health in eight key countries through additional support for the recruitment and training of female health workers, making an investment totalling \$300 million over the four year period.

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives:** saving the lives of poor women and children through greater access to quality maternal and child health services (for example, skilled birth attendants and midwives.)
- 2. Promoting opportunities for all:** empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education because of the critical untapped role of women in supporting development.

**Table 4: Maternal and Newborn Health:**

Allocations within the committed \$1.6 billion for maternal and child health:	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Investing in Female Health Workers	50	70	85	95	300

Investing in female health workers will save babies’ and mothers’ lives. We propose that an investment in female health workers be made in the eight countries where improving maternal health has been identified jointly by the Australian Government and partner governments as a priority for our support. These countries are PNG, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Burma, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Ethiopia. Together they have around 1.4 million child deaths and 70,000 maternal deaths each year.<sup>23</sup> Most have very low rates of skilled attendance at birth.<sup>24</sup>

The current **global shortage of 4.3 million health workers** (doctors, nurses, midwives and community health workers) and the related migration of health professionals from developing countries are contributing factors to child mortality. Moreover, this shortage limits the options and the opportunities available to the poorest women in the world.

### Investing in Female Health Workers: Best Buy

There is a strong need to invest in more female health workers who are sensitive to a range of maternal and child health issues and sexual health needs. This recommendation is designed to be additional to the important work AusAID is already doing in this area.<sup>25</sup> It is a sound investment to train and deploy health workers – especially midwives and other female health workers.<sup>26</sup> In addition to insufficient numbers, health workers are often poorly distributed with the impoverished, hard-to-reach and marginalised families being most poorly served.

<sup>21</sup> International Alliance Launched to Support Country-Led Advances in Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health, 22 September 2010, available at [http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=9391\\_2537\\_8958\\_992\\_5475](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=9391_2537_8958_992_5475)

<sup>22</sup> Op cit.

<sup>23</sup> UNICEF Childinfo database and WHO et al Trends in Maternal Mortality 1990 - 2008

<sup>24</sup> WHO Countdown to 2015 Report 2010

<sup>25</sup> For example, AusAID have helped upgrade all nine of PNG’s nursing degree programs and in Indonesia worked with provincial partners to improve the clinical and non-clinical skills of midwives.

<sup>26</sup> Save the Children, *The State of the World’s Mothers Report*, 2010.



A cursory look at the statistics shows why we need to train more female health workers. If **Afghanistan** was to meet the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines of 1 midwife per 20,000 women, it would need between 4,800 and 7,000 additional midwives to deliver basic services. Afghanistan has a gap of approximately 45,000 health workers overall.<sup>27</sup> **Pakistan** is estimated to lack 202,000 health workers overall, **Bangladesh** lacks 276,000 and **Indonesia** a staggering 306,000.

The Government should build on its work with partner governments and international organisations to improve health workforce capacity with a new investment of \$300 million. **This investment should prioritise the training of front-line female health workers and improving health systems in eight countries where AusAID has prioritised maternal health interventions – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste.**

These workers would serve in their communities or in clinics close to their homes. In conjunction, we should provide better incentives to attract and retain qualified female health workers. We propose that the funds be distributed in proportion to each country's share of total Australian ODA; however the exact distribution would depend on needs on the ground. **An investment of \$300m will provide training for approximately 60,000 female health workers at an average cost of \$5000 per staff member.**<sup>28</sup>

**Table 5: Country allocation for \$300 million investment in female health workers**

Country	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2014-15 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Papua New Guinea	12.5	17.5	22.5	24.5	<b>77</b>
Burma	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.0	<b>15.5</b>
Indonesia	20.0	28.0	34.0	38.0	<b>120.0</b>
Timor-Leste	2.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	<b>12.5</b>
Afghanistan	4.5	6.0	7.5	8.5	<b>26.5</b>
Bangladesh	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	<b>11.0</b>
Pakistan	4.5	6.0	7.5	8.5	<b>26.5</b>
Ethiopia	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	<b>11.0</b>
<b>Total of all:</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>300</b>

#### **This investment would deliver results:**

- Countries that train and deploy more front-line female health workers have seen dramatic declines in maternal, newborn and child mortality. Bangladesh has reduced its under-5 mortality rate by 64 per cent since 1990 with the help of tens of thousands of female health workers who have promoted family planning, safe motherhood and essential care for newborn babies.
- Relatively modest investments in female health workers can have a measurable impact on survival rates in isolated rural communities. It costs a lot of money to train a doctor or operate a hospital. But in developing countries, lifesaving health services can often be delivered cost-effectively by community health workers, when given appropriate training and support. In one recent study in Bangladesh, female community health workers with limited formal education and 6 weeks of hands-on training contributed to a newborn mortality reduction of 34 per cent.
- Evidence from many developing countries indicates that investments in training and deploying midwives and other female health workers can make the difference between success and failure in the fight to save lives and overcome social or cultural barriers which often prevent women from visiting male health providers even when they know they – or their children – are ill and need help. Studies prove that the most effective health care often begins at home, or very close to home.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Save the Children, *The State of the World's Mothers Report*, 2010, p. 11

<sup>28</sup> WHO, The costs of eliminating critical shortages in human resources for health, [http://www.who.int/choice/publications/d\\_human\\_resources.pdf](http://www.who.int/choice/publications/d_human_resources.pdf)

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

### Recommendation 3: \$140 million over four years to improve Sexual and Reproductive Health

Australia is committed to the MDGs, but all too often the second part of the MDG 5, on maternal health, is overlooked.

#### **MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health**

5.1 Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.

5.2 Achieve universal access to reproductive health.

Currently, it is estimated that more than 200 million women worldwide want to use contraceptives but don't have access.<sup>30</sup> The leading cause of death for girls aged between 15 and 19 in developing countries is pregnancy.<sup>31</sup>

ACFID recommends that the Australian Government provides increased funding for sexual and reproductive health services, making the following allocations totalling \$140 million over the four year period until 2015-16.

**Table 6: Achieving Millennium Development Goal 5**

Allocations within the committed \$1.6 billion for maternal and child health:	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Sexual and Reproductive Health Initiatives	41.6	33	33	32.4	140

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives:** saving the lives of poor women and children through greater access to quality maternal and child health services (for example, skilled birth attendants and midwives.)
- 2. Promoting opportunities for all:** empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education because of the critical untapped role of women in supporting development.

Up-skilling health workers in family planning and other sexual and reproductive health initiatives will save lives, support women's rights, prevent unintended pregnancies, save years of productive life lost to disability through childbirth injuries, and save billions in family and healthcare system expenditure.

ACFID proposes a minimum investment of \$140 million over 4 years for life-saving sexual and reproductive health services in countries where AusAID has prioritised maternal health interventions – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Timor Leste.

The outcomes set out on the next page assume good quality programming that focuses on sexual and reproductive health, increasing access to all available family planning options, and which also have an added benefit of strengthening existing health systems and building capacity in national providers. This will strengthen existing health systems and increase access to services and information for women and men. An overview of the recommended funding for each country, along with expected results, is set out in Table 7 on the next page.

<sup>30</sup> International Alliance Launched to Support Country-Led Advances in Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health, 22 September 2010, available at [http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=9391\\_2537\\_8958\\_992\\_5475](http://www.ausaid.gov.au/media/release.cfm?BC=Media&ID=9391_2537_8958_992_5475)

<sup>31</sup> Ian Wishart, CEO of Plan International Australia, *At last, the world recognises the challenges of helping girls*, Herald Sun, 21 December 2011.

**Table 7: Spending allocations per priority country and expected results**

Country	Year 1 2012- 13 \$AUm	Year 2 2013- 14 \$AUm	Year 3 2014- 15 \$AUm	Year 4 2014- 15 \$AUm	Total \$AUm	Expected Results by Country
Papua New Guinea	6	5	5	5	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 340,442 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 184 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 6110 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 109,618 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 65,964,336 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
Burma	4.8	4	4	4	16.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,750,802 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 350 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 42,798 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 270,396 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 217,650,990 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
Indonesia	5	3	3	3	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36,856 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 222 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 17,526 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 110,728 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 21,463,800 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
Timor-Leste	5	3	3	3	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,849,474 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 62 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 4,946 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 31,246 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 18,455,318 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
Afghanistan	6	5	5	5	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,509,896 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 3,180 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 37,944 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 345,968 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 158,907,640 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
Bangladesh	4	4	4	3.4	15.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15,567,880 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 6,330 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 730,788 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 1,800,330 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 576,332,748 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
Pakistan	6	5	5	5	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,171,242 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 1882 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 121,000 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 1,103,240 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 115,475,636 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
Ethiopia	4.8	4	4	4	16.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,372,822 women and couples receiving services</li> <li>• 4,218 maternal deaths averted</li> <li>• 232,610 unsafe abortions averted</li> <li>• 850,716 unintended pregnancies prevented</li> <li>• \$AU 215,039,244 = Total cost savings to the healthcare system and families</li> </ul>
<b>Total Yearly Funding</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>140</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>26.5 million families assisted</b></li> </ul>

## Overall outcomes that would be achieved by this recommendation

A minimum investment of \$140 million over four years will result in the Australian Government increasing the prevalence of family planning services and declining maternal mortality rates, providing approximately:

- **26.5 million poor women and men being reached with safe, high quality services**
- 18.9 million years of protection from pregnancy (a universal measurement)
- 16,000 maternal deaths averted
- 1.2 million unsafe abortions averted
- 4.5 million unintended pregnancies prevented
- **\$AU1.4 billion = Total cost savings to health systems and families.**<sup>32</sup>

### **Midwives on Motos: The benefits of access to long-lasting methods of contraception through mobile outreach in Timor-Leste**

"There was a lady ... she started bleeding. She was four months pregnant with her thirteenth child ... She had lost a lot of blood and was only semi-conscious." Fernanda, a Marie Stopes International Mobile Midwife, is recounting an experience that sheds light on the immediate health risks endured by women who have a lack of family planning options available to them.

The woman had been pushed in a cart by her husband to the closest health facility. When they finally made it, there was no midwife or doctor to treat her.

**Isolation compounds sexual and reproductive health risks.** Women often cannot make the long journeys or bear the costs involved in going to a town miles away to access services. The consequences of this are often tragic.

"Fortunately we had just arrived on outreach," Fernanda says. "We were able to provide emergency treatment and afterwards a family planning consultation. They felt 12 children was enough and wanted to use family planning, so, I provided her with an IUD (intra-uterine device)," she said. "So, no more children."



*Fernanda, a Marie Stopes International Mobile Midwife, Timor-Leste. Photo: MSI Australia.*

Mobile midwives like Fernanda work in remote villages in Timor-Leste, several hours from the capital Dili. They often travel to these locations on foot, car, boat or motorbike. Once there, they provide essential, often life-saving, health and family planning services to women and men who might otherwise have no knowledge or access. They provide education and family planning in rural village halls, huts, churches and even tents if there is no other suitable venue. They are able to **reach out further than other healthcare services to help more communities** in Timor-Leste.

<sup>32</sup> Methodology used is *The MSI Impact Calculator: methodology and assumptions* (2009).

## Recommendation 4: The Forgotten Emergencies Fund – \$56 million over four years to Strengthen our Humanitarian Response

ACFID recommends that AusAID establish a multiyear funding mechanism, the ‘Forgotten Emergencies Fund’, targeted at providing on-going and multiyear funding commitments to situations of protracted crises or slow-onset humanitarian crises.

This funding should be delivered through ANGOs and their in-country partners. ‘The Forgotten Emergencies Fund’ would address the current gap in Australia’s humanitarian and emergency programs. This initiative would also help to combat the so-called ‘CNN effect’, where humanitarian funding continually follows media attention to the latest crises.

**Table 8: The Forgotten Emergencies Fund**

Recommendation	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Forgotten Emergencies Fund	8	12	16	20	56

**Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

*This initiative would lead to lives saved and quality of livelihoods improved, aligned with the **overall purpose** of the Australian aid program. It would also directly contribute to achieving **Strategic Goal 5**; preparing for and responding to disasters and humanitarian response.*

### Why is this funding needed?

**At present there is no systematic analysis or review to guide Australia’s contributions to countries experiencing protracted crises or slow onset emergencies.** Current funding remains discretionary, ad-hoc and short term. Protracted crises by their very nature stretch into the longer term and require a mix of multiyear humanitarian, early recovery and development assistance to meet both immediate and longer term needs. Situations that have chronic emergency indicators or which slip in and out of crises over long periods often do not attract ODA in amounts or through mechanisms suitable to address their needs - we call these the ‘forgotten emergencies.’<sup>33</sup>

Traditional short term humanitarian grant funding to protracted crisis contexts is often reactive and fails to provide predictability or allow for the sustainable transitioning of programming into early recovery and longer term development. Short term funding also does not accommodate the unpredictable nature of operating in complex emergency environments where threats to staff safety and insecurity can limit access to affected populations, delay program implementation and timely project monitoring and evaluation.

The Government should revisit and actively explore the possibilities for multiyear agreements and consider the establishment of donor-country-based advance funds for pre-certified NGOs in these environments. We note that through AusAID there is a mechanism (the Humanitarian Partnership Agreements –HPA), which is for fast-onset emergencies and emergencies that have ‘snowballed’ into large-scale disasters. But there isn’t a similar mechanism for the early stages of slow-onset emergencies. This mechanism would allow some funds to be released for NGOs to mitigate slow-onset disasters before they become fully-fledged disasters.

**Why NGOs?** NGOs deliver the bulk of all humanitarian assistance worldwide; they are the fastest responders and have further reach into communities than other responders to crises.

<sup>33</sup> The 2010 Humanitarian Response Index recommends Australia review the support it provides to forgotten crises and those with high levels of vulnerability. The 2009 Independent Review of the Period Funding Agreement for Disaster Risk Management also recommends AusAID consider options for predictable multi-year funding to support more strategic responses to protracted crisis situations. And, the *International Humanitarian Financing: Review and Comparative Assessment of Instruments Study for the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative* commissioned by the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance recommends that the possibilities for multiyear framework agreements and other longer-term grant vehicles for NGOs are revisited and actively explored. See: Dr Stoddard, A (2008) *International Humanitarian Financing: Review and comparative assessment of instruments A study for the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative* Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance.



### Crisis in East Africa:

**From July 2011, East Africa faced the worst food crisis of the 21st Century.** By December 2011, over 13 million people were in dire need of food, clean water, basic sanitation and shelter across Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya.

**But the emergency in the Horn was no sudden onset crisis.** There were clear indications of the impending drought and its possible impacts on food security, thanks to established Early Warning Systems. There were predictions of the impending crisis back in August 2010<sup>34</sup>

which became more concrete in November 2010 when the October to December short rains were predicted to be extremely poor.<sup>35</sup>

Yet despite these clear warnings and recommendations, the humanitarian system as a whole did not scale up until the May 2011 rains failed. The Australian Government first responded through UN agencies and then activated the HPA for NGOs in July 2011. By this time the situation was a full-blown crisis. Had the Africa section of AusAID had access to a funding mechanism for accredited NGOs that could be triggered *prior* to the onset of the full-blown emergency a more preventative early response would have been possible.

We have seen in the Horn that there is still too much reliance on the humanitarian system, which only really scales up when a crisis has occurred. To tackle this for the future we need to bridge the gaps between development and humanitarian work. The Forgotten Emergencies Fund would be one step towards a more preventative approach.



*Dadaab, Kenya. Children eagerly wait as water is trucked into tanks on the outskirts of the IFO camp. As many as 2,000 people are arriving in Dadaab each day. Photo: Jo Harrison, Oxfam.*

### **Recommendation 5: \$360 million over four years to Build Peace and Security**

**No fragile or conflict-affected country has achieved a single Millennium Development Goal.**<sup>36</sup>

The 2011 Aid Review acknowledges that it is the countries trapped by conflict which will be left behind as other developing countries overcome poverty and that '*donors tend to under-invest in efforts to end violence*'.<sup>37</sup>

Around 60% of Australia's major bilateral aid programs are in conflict-affected and fragile states.<sup>38</sup> However, in the last reported year, in the ten most conflict-affected countries that receive Australian aid funding, only 3% of Australian funding was spent on conflict prevention and resolution, peace and security programs.

According to the last two years of data published by the OECD Creditor Reporting System, Australia's contribution to conflict prevention and resolution, peace and security sector programs has fallen to only 1.4% of reported ODA.<sup>39</sup>

Australia has a proud history of contributing to peace and security through our aid program. **ACFID recommends that the Government allocate \$360m over the four year period to 2015-16 to support conflict prevention, peace and security initiatives**, as set out in Table 9. This would make up around 1.3% of total projected ODA for the period.

<sup>34</sup> FEWSNET Executive Brief: La Niña and Food Security in East Africa August 2010

<sup>35</sup> FEWSNET East Africa Food Security Alert November 2, 2010 *Pre-emptive livelihood support could mitigate likely La Niña impacts in the eastern Horn*

<sup>36</sup> World Bank, *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security and Development*, <http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/fulltext>.

<sup>37</sup> Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, April 2011, p167, [www.aidreview.gov.au](http://www.aidreview.gov.au).

<sup>38</sup> 2010 Federal Budget statement: *Australia's International Development Assistance: A Good International Citizen*, 11 May 2010, p29.

<sup>39</sup> Australian CPS (Conflict prevention, Peace and Security) funding for 2006 and 2007 = 4% of its ODA. Australian CPS funding for 2008 and 2009 = 1.4% of its ODA. UK funding for CPS in 2008 and 2009 = 4.5% of their ODA.

**Table 9: Peace and Security Funding by Country**

Country	Year 1 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4 2014-15 \$AUm	Total \$AUm	Global Peace Index Ranking out of 153 countries worldwide <sup>40</sup>
Somalia	8	9	13	15	45	153
Iraq	5	7	9	9	30	152
South Sudan	8	9	13	15	45	515
Afghanistan	15	25	30	35	105	150
DR Congo	2	4	6	8	20	148
Pakistan	8	12	14	16	50	146
Palestinian Territories	2	4	6	8	20	145
Libya	1	3	5	6	15	143
Burma	1	3	5	6	15	133
Sri Lanka	1	3	5	6	15	126
<b>Total Yearly Funding</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>360</b>	

The 10 countries selected for this funding above are all highly conflict-affected and areas in which AusAID already provides funding. The allocations are based on indicative allocations as set out in the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness<sup>41</sup> and current funding priorities of AusAID in the countries listed.

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 4. Supporting security, improving the quality of governance and strengthening civil society**
- 5. Humanitarian and disaster response: more effective preparedness and responses to disasters and crises.**

The peace and security activities supported by this funding should include:

- Security system management and reform
- Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution
- Participation in international peacekeeping operations
- Reintegration and small arms & light weapons control
- Removal of land mines and explosive remnants of war
- Child soldiers: prevention and demobilisation

#### What this funding can achieve:

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) partners with ANGO Act for Peace to conduct peace and security activities in Iraq. In this war-torn nation, MAG achieved the following results last year alone:

- 4,000,000 m<sup>2</sup> of land released, through a combination of manual, mechanical and Mine Detection Dog clearance and area reduction, completing clearance operations
- 2,000 emergency Conventional Weapons Destruction tasks completed
- 80,000 hazardous items removed and destroyed
- 2,000 Mine Risk Education sessions and 150 Small Arms Risk Education sessions held

More information about the specific needs and results in the 10 countries identified in this recommendation can be found in the Act for Peace publication [Invest in Peace: Opportunities for Australia](#).<sup>42</sup>

<sup>40</sup> This list of 10 countries are all ranked in the bottom 30 by the 2011 Global Peace Index. See [www.visionofhumanity.org](http://www.visionofhumanity.org). As only countries with more than 1 million people are ranked, PNG is the only Pacific Island listed. PNG is ranked 94 of 153. The other highly conflict-affected countries listed in the bottom 30 include: North Korea, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Chad, Colombia, Yemen, Lebanon, Georgia, Zimbabwe, Philippines and Burundi.

<sup>41</sup> Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness, April 2011, p24, [www.aidreview.gov.au](http://www.aidreview.gov.au).

<sup>42</sup> Act for Peace, *Invest in Peace: Opportunities for Australia*, 2011.

## The Pacific

### Recommendation 6: Protecting our Climate Change Investment

**The negative effects of climate change cannot be tackled without communities:** community based initiatives to support the most vulnerable developing countries in our region are an essential component of the commitment to tackling the impacts of climate change.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has assessed that businesses and households will account for over 80% of the additional climate change investment required in 2020.<sup>43</sup>

Increased support is needed for communities to build their own capacity and devise bottom up, locally relevant strategies. This includes the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change, to be prepared for the risks of climate change induced disasters, to implement low carbon development and to benefit from the mitigation and carbon reduction systems being developed.

**ACFID recommends increased support for the Pacific to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and be better prepared to respond to the risks from climate change induced disasters.** Australia's increased support to mitigating the impacts or future impacts of climate change in the Pacific should largely extend its current approach to building resilience in the Pacific region, including increased support for community-based climate change action and a Pacific regional commitment to implement AusAID's disaster risk reduction policy.

**ACFID recommends an allocation of \$140 million over the next four years to help climate proof the Pacific, allocated as set out in Table 10.**

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

**3. Investing in food security, sustainable economic growth & private sector development, reducing the negative impacts of climate change & other environmental factors.**

**5. Humanitarian and disaster response: more effective preparedness and responses to disasters and crises.**

We note that Australia's contribution to the international effort to mitigate and help poor communities to adapt to unavoidable climate change will increase through the period covered by this submission. Australia has responded rapidly to the need for climate finance, allocating \$599 million to the Copenhagen Fast Start initiative over the period 2010-11 to 2012-13. By 2014-15, Australia's climate finance expenditure, commitments and pledges are expected to total \$1.2 billion, with approximately \$300mn in each of the 2013-14 and 2014-15 financial years.

We expect that climate change funding financed from the aid budget will be around \$370 million in 2015-16.<sup>44</sup> ACFID accepts that it is appropriate for some climate funding to come from the aid budget, because there is an undoubted overlap between climate change mitigation and adaptation spending, and good development programming. In ACFID's submission, of the proposed spending of \$1179 million detailed for 2015-16, \$55 million is for explicit climate projects, and part of the \$109 million for disaster risk reduction and the \$51 million for increasing resilience and livelihood sustainability is directly related to helping communities adapt to unavoidable climate change. However, Australia's total contribution should be considerably higher than around \$300 million per annum. Additional funding should be sourced from outside the aid budget, and include other non-aid public funding and private expenditure.

<sup>43</sup> UNDP (2010) Discussion Paper, Human Development in a Changing Climate: A Framework for Climate Finance

<sup>44</sup> This figure is based on work by Dr. Frank Jotzo and his colleagues at the Centre for Climate Economics and Policy at the Australian National University, see: Jotzo, F., J. Pickering, and P. J. Wood (2011) *Fulfilling Australia's international climate finance commitments: Which sources of financing are promising and how much could they raise?* CCEP Working Paper 1115, Centre for Climate Economics & Policy, Crawford School of Economics and Government, The Australian National University, Canberra.

**Table 10: Protecting our Climate Change Investment**

Component:	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	\$AU Total
<b>6.1</b> Increased support for community-based climate change action in the Pacific	Continue AusAID's current program commitment <sup>45</sup>	20	35	45	<b>100</b>
<b>6.2</b> Regional commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific	10	10	10	10	<b>40</b>
<b>\$AU Total of all</b>					<b>140</b>

### **Recommendation 6.1: \$100 million over four years for increased support for community-based climate change action**

The Australian Government's current \$30 million commitment over 2011-13 through the community-based climate change action grants is very welcome, but needs to be scaled up from 2012 to 2015. The current program recognises the value of community-based action as a complementary component of the Government's approach to reduce the negative impacts of climate change, particularly in the least developed countries (LDCs) and in small island developing states (SIDS) in the Pacific. ACFID's proposal of a scaled-up four-year commitment to community-based climate change initiatives would harness partnerships with Australian, international and in-country civil society and NGOs for impact on the ground.

#### **Community-Based Climate Change Action:**

**National and local civil society organisations play a vital role in identifying and getting critical local issues onto the national agenda and holding their governments to account.** As climate finance ramps up beyond the initial Fast Start period, civil society's role will be even more important in ensuring the needs of communities, including those living in poverty and the most vulnerable, are being represented. This will be vital to equitably deliver climate change resources across the Pacific, particularly where there are national capacity, absorption and resource management issues creating barriers for accessing existing climate change funds.<sup>46</sup> Strong civil society will ensure that governance systems, particularly around national and regional adaptation funding mechanisms, are transparent and accountable to those most vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change.

Community-based approaches aim to reduce the vulnerability of Pacific people at the community level to the diverse impacts of climate change. Such approaches include supporting rural livelihoods (through agricultural and crop management practices and climate change resilient crops); approaches to natural resource management (including forest management, agroforestry, livestock rearing, water resource management, coastal protection, and ecosystem restoration); and assistance to prepare for and respond to disasters (including for example education and awareness raising, early warning systems, and mangrove rehabilitation).

### **Recommendation 6.2: A \$40 million, four-year, Regional commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Pacific**

**ACFID recommends that \$40 million be allocated over the period 2012-13 to 2015-16 to support and uphold the implementation of the AusAID DRR Policy in the Pacific.** This funding should be directed towards incorporating DRR principles into Australia's Pacific country programs because these countries are very susceptible to the effects of climate change. The Pacific region is recognised as a high-risk area for natural disasters because of rising temperatures, increasingly vulnerable coastal systems, rising sea levels, climate induced diseases and epidemics and extreme weather events.

Funding the implementation of the DRR policy will save lives and **bring a return on investment.** The Australian Government has been proactive in developing a policy on DRR; however greater funding would provide for the implementation of the policy and help reduce the future number of casualties and potential economic loss from future disasters. Implementing the DRR policy within Pacific country strategies would strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation measures, thus reducing the need for mobilisation of resources on a large scale when disasters strike. The Australian Government should utilise ANGOs to build and mobilise civil society's capacity for reducing disaster risk in the Pacific.

<sup>45</sup> The Pacific component of the \$30 million community-based climate change action grants over 2011-13

<sup>46</sup> Maclellan, Nic, Turning the Tide: Improving access to climate financing in the Pacific Islands, Lowy Institute Policy Brief, July 2011.

## Recommendation 7: \$10 million over four years to Help Young Women and Girls Become Leaders in the Pacific

ACFID recommends the allocation of **\$10 million over the next four years**, to 2015-16, for grassroots programs and support mechanisms to empower young women and girls in the Pacific.

*"Women have a right to fully participate in all aspects of economic, social and political life. This is key to reducing poverty, enhancing economic growth and democratic governance, and increasing the wellbeing of women, girls and their families. Central to this is ensuring that women and men can make decisions regarding their lives, and the lives of their families and communities".*<sup>47</sup>

*"If young people are given the means to become better educated, healthier, express their voice and to find useful employment, they are better able to make their communities more economically productive and socially resilient."*<sup>48</sup>

**Table 11: Helping Young Women and Girls Become Leaders**

Recommendation	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm
Helping young women and girls become leaders	1	2	3	4
<b>Total \$AUm:</b>				<b>10</b>

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

**2. Promoting opportunities for all, including** education, empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities

**It will also, in turn, support all other strategic directions.**

In Pacific island countries there are limited opportunities for women to take an active part in political and other leadership processes, even at the village and community level, as tradition and culture often explicitly exclude women from leadership and decision-making. The situation is greatly exacerbated for young women and girls.

**The youth age group of 15–24 years accounts for nearly two million people, which is close to a fifth of the region's total population.** Girls comprise around 48 per cent of those under 20.<sup>49</sup> UNICEF has identified that key risk factors affecting young people in the Pacific include disengagement from the political process and the lack of participation in community decision-making.<sup>50</sup> The situation is worse for girls in the Pacific Islands who are all too often subject to discriminatory social practices. The socialization process in many Pacific countries has the result that girls often do not develop the notion of having choices and, in countries where girls are of particularly low status in society, they can be taught not to question male authority. "Donors should include at least one programme of action to empower the girl child within their programmes of assistance."<sup>51</sup>

ACFID welcomes Australian government efforts to encourage the participation of women in politics, decision-making and peace-building, and its support for their economic empowerment. Focusing on the current generation of women, however, is not enough. Programs are needed to actively assist the next generation of women leaders and decision-makers to emerge by empowering young women and girls. Australia's efforts to ensure girls have access to the formal education they require in order to participate fully in their societies need to be complemented by grassroots programs and other mechanisms. As part of an approach to empowering young women and girls, the role of men and boys in supporting the participation of girls and young women in leadership and development also needs to be addressed.

<sup>47</sup> AusAID *Women Leading Change*, p. 1.

<sup>48</sup> UNICEF *State of Pacific Youth 2011 – Opportunities and Obstacles*

<sup>49</sup> UNICEF *State of Pacific Youth 2011 – Opportunities and Obstacles*

<sup>50</sup> UNICEF *State of Pacific Youth 2011 – Opportunities and Obstacles*

<sup>51</sup> EGM/DVGC/2006/EP.14 United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) in collaboration with UNICEF Expert Group Meeting Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, "Violence against the girl child in the Pacific Islands region."



**This investment of \$10 million should be used to:**

- Pilot and roll out local and community level programs for girls in their early to mid-teens
- Develop and expand mentoring and networking programs for young women in the Pacific
- Provide targeted financial support for girls and young women to enable them to benefit from leadership opportunities.
- Pilot and promote programs which engage men, including religious leaders, and boys in support of the participation of girls and young women in leadership and decision-making.
- Support schools in curriculum and resource development directed to enhancing girls' leadership capacities



**The outcomes that would be achieved by this recommendation:**

Funding of this recommendation would allow the capacity of one of the most marginalised sectors of the population of Pacific countries - young women and girls - to develop.

Investing in the empowerment of girls and young women in the Pacific is investing in the future of their families, their communities and their nations.

Empowering girls and young women is a powerful way to break the cycle of poverty and disadvantage and contribute to far greater numbers of women participating in leadership and decision-making in the Pacific.

*Learning new skills in Fiji: These young women are benefiting from vocational training in radio and communications through FemLINKPACIFIC's Community Radio Station, supported by the International Women's Development Agency. The project trains young women to be radio producers and broadcasters.*

**Recommendation 8: \$150 million over four years towards Stopping Violence Against Women in the Pacific**

ACFID applauds recent funding announcements and initiatives aimed at reducing violence against women in the Pacific, including hosting the *Pacific Women's Empowerment Policy Dialogue* and appointing Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.

Violence against women and girls is a pressing issue in the Pacific. It is a threat to the lives and safety of women and children and an affront to their human rights.

**ACFID recommends that the Government continue their important work in this area through the allocation of a further \$150 million over the four-year period to 2015-16, with a specific focus on initiatives in PNG and the Solomon Islands.**

**Table 12: Stopping Violence Against Women in the Pacific:**

Recommendation	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm
Stopping Violence Against Women in the Pacific	15	25	50	60
<b>Total \$AUm:</b>				<b>150</b>

The Strategic Goals of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

1. **Saving lives**, particularly the lives of poor women and children.
2. **Promoting opportunities for all, including** education, empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities
4. **Effective governance**, improving governance to improve security, and enhance justice and human rights

In **Papua New Guinea**, a specific focus on preventing violence against women through Australia's aid program is critical. The 2011 Medecins Sans Frontieres report *Hidden and Neglected: The medical and emotional needs of survivors of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea*, highlights glaring gaps in health and emotional support services for victims.<sup>52</sup>

The Independent Review notes that "violence against women undermines the safety and livelihoods of families." Further work is needed to provide support to the Government of PNG to follow through on its commitments under Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), to develop effective, high quality and coordinated gender based violence support and referral services across the country, and to develop and implement effective approaches to attitudinal change. There are also opportunities to link the aid program's proposed work on formal justice systems with work to make traditional and community justice systems more gender responsive and more aligned with existing laws relating to gender violence .

The **Solomon Islands** has the third highest prevalence of violence against women in the world.<sup>53</sup> The need to address this issue is becoming more widely recognised and a national policy on eliminating violence against women has been developed. It commits the Solomon Islands Government to exercising leadership to end all forms of violence against women, and to supporting advocacy at local, provincial, national, regional and international levels. Support to the range of service provision, legislative and attitudinal/behaviour change actions required to tackle violence against women in the Solomon Islands should be a priority for Australian aid to the country.

#### **Recommendation 9: Addressing the needs of People with Disabilities in the Pacific**

Australia's aid program has a world-leading Disability Inclusion Strategy.<sup>54</sup> We commend the Government for this Strategy and for recent announcements, including \$2 million towards a new United Nations Trust Fund to assist countries to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Severe and moderate disability is prevalent throughout the Pacific, and in many of these countries poverty means that people are unable to access assistance. In Tonga, for example, only 6% of people with a disability ever receive assistance.

**ACFID recommends that the Australian Government compliment the work it is currently undertaking in this area by addressing disability needs in the Pacific, allocating a total of \$71 million over the 4 year period until 2015-16 as set out in the table below.**

**Table 13: Addressing the needs of People with Disabilities in the Pacific**

Component	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	\$AUm Total
9.1 Community-Based Rehabilitation Initiatives	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	15
9.2 Research Funding for Disability in Development in the Pacific	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6
9.3 Inclusive Education in the Pacific	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	50
<b>Total \$AU:</b>	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	71

<sup>52</sup> Medecins Sans Frontieres, *Hidden and Neglected: The medical and emotional needs of survivors of family and sexual violence in Papua New Guinea*, 2011.

<sup>53</sup> The Solomon Islands Family Health and Safety Study (SIFHSS, 2009)

<sup>54</sup> Australian Government, 2009, *Development for All: Towards a Disability Inclusive Australian Aid Program 2009-2014*.

**Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 2. Promoting opportunities for all**, including through education, empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education, and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities
- 3. Investing in Food Security, sustainable economic growth & private sector development**; through improving incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities
- 4. Effective governance**, supporting security, improving the quality of governance and strengthening civil society. (In particular, recommendations 9.1 and 9.2 include a focus on strengthening and supporting government systems).

### **Recommendation 9.1: A \$15 million, four-year, Community-Based Rehabilitation Initiative**

**ACFID recommends a four-year, \$15 million Regional Pacific Community-Based Rehabilitation Initiative that focuses on the under-served areas of the Pacific.**

Through this initiative, we recommend that the Australian Government provide support for regional and national Community-Based Rehabilitation in line with international Community-Based Rehabilitation Guidelines.<sup>55</sup> As set out in the Guidelines, Community-Based Rehabilitation involves a comprehensive and coordinated strategy including approaches to health, education, sustainable livelihoods, social inclusion and empowerment for people with disabilities.

While there is a broad need for Community-Based Rehabilitation across the Pacific, this funding should be directed to countries with the structures in place to implement such an approach, including PNG, Solomon Islands and Fiji. The funding could also assist countries without established structures to approach such a strategy to design and implement them.

The initiative would support:

- The formation of a regional resource group, including regional advisors on Community-Based Rehabilitation in the core areas of health, education, livelihoods, social inclusion and empowerment
- The development of Community-Based Rehabilitation programs to meet the basic needs and enhance the quality of life of persons with disabilities and their families.
- Promoting Community-Based Rehabilitation as a strategy for inclusive development and poverty reduction, building regional awareness and capacity in community approaches to supporting people with disabilities

### **Recommendation 9.2: \$6 million over four years for Funding Research on Disability in Development**

**ACFID recommends that a four year, \$6 million research initiative be funded to inform disability-inclusion policies for Pacific nations.**

There is a pressing need for research into disability inclusion in the Pacific. The increasing reliance on evidence-based strategies to develop policies and practices, and to report on the effectiveness of programs and funding, means that ongoing research is integral to achieving effective and reportable disability-inclusive programs.<sup>56</sup>

However, there is a notable absence of identifiable research coming out of the Pacific region in relation to disability inclusion. The comprehensive *World Report on Disability*<sup>57</sup> makes very few references to existing research in the Pacific, because very little research exists. Given the World Report's extremely thorough process for submissions, review and consultation, this is significant and highlights that accessible disability inclusion research in relation to the Pacific was, and is, limited.

A revised research strategy could be used to inform the social policies and disability-inclusive programs of Pacific Governments, AusAID, and other development actors including NGOs. The research could provide the basis for appropriately targeted intervention programs in Pacific countries that aim to reduce disability-related stigma and discrimination, empower people with disabilities and facilitate their inclusion into all spheres of economic, social and political life.

<sup>55</sup> World Health Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Labour Organization and International Disability and Development Consortium, [Community-Based Rehabilitation Guidelines \(2010\)](#).

<sup>56</sup> Llewellyn, G., Makuwira, J., Madden, R., Brentnall, J., Lukersmith, S., Mpofu, E., Bundy, A., Veitch, C., Broom, A. (2010) *Developing a disability and development research agenda for Asia and the Pacific*. CBM, Melbourne, Australia, p 21.

<sup>57</sup> WHO, [World Report on Disability](#), 2011.

This research could support:

- The development of government guidelines for state organisations and media to mainstream stigma and discrimination reduction into their regular work
- Capacity building for relevant state organisations to include people with disabilities and reduce disability-related stigma and discrimination
- Capacity building for Disabled Persons Organizations and communities to develop community-led interventions to reduce disability-related stigma and discrimination

### **Recommendation 9.3: \$50 million over four years for Inclusive Education Pilot Programs in the Pacific**

The Government has committed Australia to providing \$5 billion in ODA to education between 2010 and 2015.<sup>58</sup> Further to this, the Government's election platform includes a focus on improving access to education through supporting children with disabilities to enrol and complete primary school.<sup>59</sup> Inclusive education is a component of the first core outcome under the Government's *Development for All*<sup>60</sup> Strategy and inclusive primary education programs have received strong stakeholder recognition from aid recipients in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>61</sup>

**ACFID recommends the allocation \$50 million over four years, which would build on the current small existing inclusive education initiatives, with a comprehensive inclusive education pilot program targeted towards Pacific Island nations.**

Priority for these pilot programs should be given to Pacific countries who are signatories to the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. In line with this, we recommend this funding be allocated to seven separate pilots based on the capacity and need of each country, to the countries of PNG, Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu, Tonga, Palau, Solomon Islands and Cook Islands. We propose that the pilots would be similar in design to the current AusAID Inclusive Education Pilot in Samoa.

### **Recommendation 10: Combatting Avoidable Blindness**

As was discussed at the Ninth Meeting of the Ministers of Health for the Pacific Island Countries in Honiara in 2011, Pacific Island countries are experiencing an overwhelming non communicable disease epidemic. The impact of blinding non communicable diseases like diabetes (diabetic retinopathy), cataract and glaucoma are among the most severe of all non communicable diseases, and need to be addressed to ensure that Pacific countries achieve the MDGs.

Activities under the Australian Avoidable Blindness Initiative are currently being implemented in PNG, the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Samoa. A further allocation of funding for eye care in the Pacific, and integration of blindness prevention activities into country health programs, is vital to ensure the ongoing sustainability of blindness prevention activities.

**ACFID recommends the allocation of \$54.7 million over the four year period to 2015-16 to further current efforts to combat avoidable blindness in the Pacific** (note that 10.3 covers countries both in the Pacific and East Asia). This funding should be allocated through the three components outlines in Table 14.

<sup>58</sup> The Hon Kevin Rudd MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, *Australian Statement to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly Millennium Development Goals Summit*, New York, 22 September 2010.

<sup>59</sup> Australian Labor Party, *A Good International Citizen: Australia's Development Assistance* (2010).

<sup>60</sup> Australian Government, 2009, *Development for All: Towards a Disability Inclusive Australian Aid Program 2009-2014*.

<sup>61</sup> In six of the Pacific Partnerships for Development between Australia and respective Pacific Island Governments, improved education has been identified as a priority outcome, including the Partnerships with Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga and Nauru. The Pacific Regional Strategy also calls on countries to facilitate coordination with the Pacific Education Development Framework (PEDF), which incorporates inclusive education as a cross-cutting theme.

**Table 14: Combatting Avoidable Blindness in the Pacific**

Component	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	\$AUm Total
<b>10.1:</b> \$36.6 million for avoidable blindness initiatives in the Pacific	5	9	11.3	11.3	36.6
<b>10.2:</b> \$10 million for the Pacific Eye Institute	1	2	3	4	10
<b>10.3:</b> \$5.6 million towards Eliminating Trachoma in the Pacific	0.8	1.2	1.8	1.8	5.6
<b>10.4:</b> \$2.5 m for a new Childhood Blindness Initiative – Pacific and East Asia.	0.5	0.5	0.75	0.75	2.5
<b>Total \$AU:</b>	7.3	12.7	16.85	17.85	54.7

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, through supporting large-scale disease prevention, vaccination and treatment.
- 2. Promoting opportunities for all**, including education and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.

**Recommendation 10.1: \$36.6 million over four years for avoidable blindness initiatives in the Pacific**

**ACFID calls for a four year, \$35.6 million commitment across country budgets and relevant thematic areas.**

It is important that blindness prevention is integrated into other development and public health programs where possible. Australia is well-placed to enhance our blindness prevention leadership role in the Pacific, and the Government's pre-election Aid Policy Statement<sup>62</sup> included avoidable blindness as one of eight key 'future challenges' which Australia's aid program would address.

The proposed funding for initiatives to address avoidable blindness in the Pacific would strengthen health systems and health indicators, and have an immediate impact on reducing the number of needlessly blind people. This will be achieved through a strategic, multifaceted approach which will be driven by the National Health Plans and National Eye Care Plans of each country. Specific activities will include:

- Developing human resources
- Improving public health infrastructure
- Improving systems for the collection and use of information
- Interventions against cataract and other conditions
- Providing spectacles
- Educating communities about the importance and availability of eye health services
- Influencing policy and decision-makers to allocate local resources to blindness prevention initiatives based on a strong evidence base

**Recommendation 10.2: \$10 million over four years for the Pacific Eye Institute**

The Pacific Eye Institute is the region's first dedicated training institute that specialises in training doctors, eye nurses and technicians and enables ongoing training of eye health staff across the region. The Institute is already making a vital contribution to health care delivery across the Pacific. A comprehensive program has been developed to train a local workforce who will, over time, be able to sustain a local solution to issues of avoidable blindness in the region. **\$10 million is required to ensure the ongoing sustainability of The Pacific Eye Institute.**

<sup>62</sup> Australian Labor Party, *A Good International Citizen — Australia's Development Assistance*, 2010



Teaching eye care workers is only part of the solution, which must also include ongoing support and development both for these personnel and for the (often weak) health systems within which they deliver care. Accordingly, we need to build upon the success of PEI and also dramatically step up workforce support and development, eye health leadership and community health promotion efforts, with an increased focus on the individual needs of Pacific island countries.

### **Recommendation 10.3: \$5.6 million over four years to Eliminate Trachoma in the Pacific**

Trachoma – the world’s leading infectious cause of blindness – is still active in many parts of the Pacific, and is caused by poor access to clean water and sanitation. ANGOs have developed a plan to eliminate this blinding condition in the Pacific. **An allocation of \$5.6 million over four years (\$2.1 million in PNG, and \$3.5 million for other Pacific countries) will enable this condition to be eliminated**, with massive impacts in terms of poverty reduction and savings to national health budgets.

Specific activities and outcomes will include:

- Surveys to further investigate prevalence
- Mass distribution of antibiotics to affected communities
- Primary school testing by community health nurses
- The appointment of Trachoma Coordinators
- Public education and advocacy to raise awareness about the WHO’s SAFE Strategy (Sanitation, Antibiotics, Facial hygiene and Environmental improvements).

### **Recommendation 10.4: \$2.5 million over four years for a new Childhood Blindness Initiative – Pacific and East Asia**

The Government’s pre-election Aid Policy Statement<sup>63</sup> stated that the Government would ‘trial a childhood blindness program for the Asia Pacific.’ The 2012-13 Budget provides an ideal opportunity for this to take place.

The elimination of childhood blindness has a crucial role to play in reducing poverty and increasing access to education. If funded, this program will address causes of childhood blindness including corneal scarring from Vitamin A deficiency, neonatal conjunctivitis, trachoma, refractive error, retinopathy of prematurity and harmful traditional eye treatments.

This project will be trialled in the **Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Cambodia**, with possible geographic expansion in accordance with the results of ongoing surveys and needs assessments.

**Funding of \$2.5 million over four years will have a dramatic impact on efforts to achieve the MDGs and will lead to a brighter future for many of the most vulnerable children in the Pacific and East Asia.**

Activities in this program would include:

- Screening to identify children with vision loss
- Provision of training to community nurses
- Personnel will be trained in early intervention programs
- A program officer to coordinate these activities

### **Recommendation 11: Increased Funding for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the Pacific**

**The Pacific remains off track to meet the sanitation and drinking water MDG targets and is the only region in the world where coverage trends are reversing.** Recent statistics show that less than half of the more than 13 million Pacific Islanders have access to safe drinking water. Many Pacific countries, even those with very large populations, have a virtual vacuum of policies needed to guide the management of water resources, and planning and delivery of WASH services.

The Independent Aid Review and the Government’s Response made it clear that WASH is a key priority for the aid program. The experience of designing the Water and Sanitation Initiative from 2008-2011 means that AusAID is now in a strong position to effectively program increased levels of funding for WASH. However, overall funding in the current year is

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<sup>63</sup> Australian Labor Party, op. cit.

expected to drop by over a quarter on last year's spend (\$180m down to \$130m). The government now needs to allocate more and predictable resources to WASH over the long-term.

**Table 15: Funding for WASH in the Pacific**

Component:	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	\$AU Total
<b>11.1:</b> \$185 million for WASH in the Pacific.	20	35	55	75	<b>185</b>
<b>11.2</b> \$34 million for WASH in PNG	6	8	10	10	<b>34</b>
<b>\$AU Total of all</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>219</b>

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

**1. Saving Lives**, improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation and supporting large-scale disease prevention and treatment.

#### **Recommendation 11.1: \$185 million over four years for WASH in the Pacific**

**ACFID recommends the Government allocate \$185m towards WASH in the Pacific over the four-year period to 2015-16.**

This funding recommendation takes into account both the regional need, the limited donor support for WASH that currently exists in the region, as well as the absorptive capacity of AusAID partners, including governments, multilaterals and civil society organisations.

#### **Recommendation 11.2: \$34 million over four years for WASH in Papua New Guinea**

PNG is one of the Pacific countries in most urgent need of Australian support for WASH. PNG is considerably off track and will not meet the MDG targets for improved water coverage or improved sanitation coverage. **PNG is one of just a few countries where there is actually a slight decline in coverage for WASH indicators since 1990**, which may reflect a decline in service delivery since the sector was decentralised to local and provincial governments in 1995. PNG is also the largest and most populated Pacific nation, and strong population growth may also have contributed to reversing trends in water and sanitation coverage.

A specific, large scale Australian supported WASH program is strongly justified and urgently needed in PNG. **ACFID recommends the allocation of \$34 million to WASH in PNG over the four-year period to 2015-16**, as set out in Table 15.

**This funding has the capacity to ensure that WASH services are provided to an additional half a million people in PNG**, and would support the Government to put in place the basic building blocks of the WASH sector, such as policies, lead institutions and performance monitoring systems.

## East Asia

### Recommendation 12: Women's Empowerment in East Asia

Inequality is a key development issue in East Asia. AusAID should therefore place greater emphasis on addressing this issue in its target countries. While East Asia will likely remain a region of high economic growth, it is equally likely that the most marginalized people in these countries will not benefit significantly from this growth.

Through AusAID, the Government has numerous initiatives to support economic growth in its target countries, and while these are mostly designed appropriately to suit local conditions, they do not address the growing or static levels of inequality in these countries. Australia and other donors have an important role to help governments ensure that growth is as inclusive as possible.

ACFID welcomes recent initiatives to help eliminate violence against women, including the allocation of \$96.4 million in the 2011-12 Federal Budget for such strategies in East Asia and the Pacific. However, given the scale of these problems and the low base from which efforts are beginning, this is likely to be considerably less than what is needed. This initiative should therefore be a pre-cursor to greater investment in the vital issue of women's empowerment. We recommend an investment in promoting women's empowerment in East Asia, specifically directed towards initiatives in Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

ACFID recommends this investment should be \$175 million over the four-year period to 2015-16, as set out in Table 16.

**Table 16: Women's Empowerment in East Asia**

Component:	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
<b>12.1:</b> Strengthening Women's Organisations and Government Structures in <b>Indonesia</b>	10	12	18	25	65
<b>12.2:</b> Investment in female small holders in <b>Vietnam</b>	5	8	13	19	45
<b>12.3:</b> Combatting violence against women in <b>Cambodia</b>	3	6	11	18	38
<b>12.4:</b> Strengthening Women's Organisations in <b>Lao PDR</b> .	2	4	8	13	27
<b>Total \$AU:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>175</b>

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, specifically saving the lives of poor women and children.
- 2. Promoting opportunities for all**, by empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education.
- 4. Sustainable economic development**, improving food security as well as incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities, (particularly for women living in rural areas).
- 3. Effective governance**, improving governance to deliver services, improve security and enhance justice and human rights.

#### Recommendation 12.1: \$65 million over four years towards Strengthening Women's Organisations and Government Structures in Indonesia

Since decentralization in Indonesia, local governments are increasingly responding to pressures from religious minorities and passing laws which restrict the movements and fulfilment of the rights of women. The central Ministry of Home Affairs, which is supposed to review proposed local legislation to ensure compatibility with national laws and international conventions that Indonesia has ratified, has limited capacity. In the absence of sound checks and balances, there is a real risk that development gains for women will be lost in the immediate future, and before the benefits from AusAID's investment in the education of women and girls can be realised.

A significant proportion of funds need to be targeted towards Indonesia where **fundamentalist forces are currently eroding hard earned gains in women's empowerment**. As well as direct support to women and organisations working on gender issues, there is a need for funds to be injected into efforts to strengthen structures and the enforcement of national policy.

**ACFID recommends an investment of \$65 million over the four-year period to 2015-16 directed at strengthening community organisations promoting women's empowerment in Indonesia as well as Government policies and programs to address women's empowerment.**

#### **Recommendation 12.2: A \$35 million, four-year, investment in female small holders in Vietnam**

In Vietnam, agricultural policy and practices are focused on large-scale agro-industrialisation whilst trade liberalisation is exposing farmers to increasing market-based risks. Agricultural productivity is declining due to environmental degradation as a result of resource intensive practices. In a country with limited space for public dialogue, the rural poor have very little influence over policy making and input into government planning and prioritisation.

As a result, in spite of the growing wealth in Vietnam there is increasing inequality. Income poverty is predominantly rural and increasingly concentrated amongst ethnic minorities in these areas. For ethnic minorities and in particular women in ethnic minorities, this poverty is compounded by other forms of exclusion.

**ACFID recommends an investment of \$45 million in assistance to female small holders in rural Vietnam, over the four year period to 2015-16.**

Such a commitment would be in line with AusAID's five year strategy for Vietnam, and would involve the scaling up of support to economic leadership for poor ethnic minority women. This initiative would also encourage investment in pro-poor climate change mitigation activities and resilient livelihoods.

#### **Recommendation 12.3: \$38 million over four years towards combatting violence against women in Cambodia**

Violence against women is a significant problem in Cambodia. Recent research by the Cambodian Ministry of Women's Affairs found that 58% of respondents were aware of domestic violence occurring in other peoples' spousal relations. Studies have also demonstrated how both men and women draw upon dominant gender norms to explain, rationalise and sometimes excuse such violence.

**ACFID recommends an investment of \$38 million over the four-year period to 2015-16 as a core component of the Cambodia Country Strategy.** It is envisaged that this funding would:

- Support the implementation of legislation to protect women from violence in Cambodia
- Ensure that all AusAID funded programs and activities within Cambodia uphold women's rights and promote women's empowerment and leadership as integral components of their work
- Ensure that within all AusAID funded programs and activities within Cambodia women and men are equally empowered to engage in and influence decision making processes at all levels, and encouraged to hold key actors to account
- Support community organisations to undertake activities that contribute to increased knowledge among women about their rights and assist in building the confidence of women to use their skills to take advantage of leadership opportunities

#### **Recommendation 12.4: \$27 million over four years towards Strengthening Women's Organisations in Lao PDR.**

Rural ethnic minority women in Lao PDR do not enjoy equality. This is partially because of traditional practices, such as early marriage, pressure against seeking divorce, inheritance practices that favour men, attitudes relating to girls' education and a lack of awareness of legal rights. For women from ethnic minorities in Lao PDR, these problems are exacerbated by existing low education and literacy levels, poor Lao language skills and little experience in dealing with government.

While more Lao women are active in agriculture than men, they have little direct access to agricultural extension, veterinary care or financial credit. This is particularly the case for ethnic minority women as they are more likely to live in remote areas, many cannot speak or read Lao, and men usually deal with outsiders.

Although the legal recognition of non-profit associations and human rights are sensitive issues for the Lao Government, the area of supporting women's empowerment is far less so. There is now potential for AusAID to develop a funding mechanism to support Lao women's civil society organisations, regional women's rights networks and peer groups as well as the Lao Women's Union.

**ACFID recommends the allocation of \$27 million over the four-year period to 2015-16 in order to support Lao women's organisations** such as those listed above. The aim of this funding would be to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to engage in policy dialogue and advocacy for gender equality, as well as supporting women's empowerment initiatives at the community level.

### Recommendation 13: Strengthening Humanitarian and Disaster Response in East Asia

ACFID welcomes the commitment of both the Government and the Federal Opposition to assisting our regional neighbours to cope with humanitarian disasters. As noted in the Prime Minister's 19 November press release, the East Asian region bears the significant brunt of natural disasters which occur worldwide, with 8 of the 10 most significant such disasters occurring in this region in 2009 and 5 of the 10 most significant disasters in 2010.<sup>64</sup> We commend recent funding announcements including \$1 million to support a regional disaster coordination secretariat and \$8 million for the World Food Programme for the pre-positioning of emergency food supplies.

ANGOs and our in country partners play a critical role when disasters strike in our immediate region and beyond. The NGO sector is engaged not only in disaster response, but also in preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities, in line with the Government's Disaster Risk Reduction Policy.<sup>65</sup>

Further to this, we note that the Aid Review recommended a significant increase in humanitarian funding, and that humanitarian and disaster response is a stand-alone Strategic Goal of the Australian aid program. As such, **ACFID recommends a significant increase, of \$200 million over the four year period to 2015-16, in funding to initiatives which will make preparedness and response to disasters in East Asia more efficient and effective – as set out below.**

These initiatives draw on the strengths and knowledge of communities in East Asia and deal with some of the complex issues faced by vulnerable populations, including women, when disasters strike.

**Table 17: Strengthening Humanitarian and Disaster Response in East Asia**

Component:	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
<b>13.1:</b> Disaster Response Education and Pilot Nurse Training Program in <b>Indonesia</b>	9	18	18	26	<b>71</b>
<b>13.2:</b> National Early Warning Systems for <b>East Timor</b>	6	12	12	17	<b>47</b>
<b>13.3:</b> Supporting Disaster Management and Preparedness in <b>Cambodia</b>	3	6	6	9	<b>24</b>
<b>13.4:</b> Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response in <b>Lao PDR</b> .	1	2	2	5	<b>10</b>
<b>13.5:</b> Increase investment in Community Resilience and Emergency Response in <b>Vietnam</b>	6	12	12	18	<b>48</b>
<b>Total \$AU:</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>200</b>

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, specifically saving the lives of poor women and children;
- 4. Sustainable economic development**, improving food security as well as incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities.
- 5. Humanitarian and disaster response**; directly supporting more effective preparedness and responses to disasters and crises.

<sup>64</sup> Australian Government, Prime Minister's Press Release, 19 November 2010, <http://www.pm.gov.au/press-office/helping-our-region-better-manage-natural-disasters>

<sup>65</sup> Australian Government, 'Investing in a Safer Future', June 2009.

### **Recommendation 13.1: \$71 million over four years for Disaster Response Education and Pilot Nurse Training Program in Indonesia**

Indonesia has a high level of vulnerability to natural disasters, which is being exacerbated by climate change and more intense weather events. While the Australian Government is to be commended for funding in this area in Indonesia, the level of investment in disaster preparedness and risk reduction is still not adequate given the high levels of vulnerability across Indonesia.

In particular, erratic weather events increase the risk faced by farmers, especially small-scale farmers trying to sustain their food production. When disasters do strike, the particular needs of vulnerable populations, such as women and girls, also need to be taken into account.

**ACFID recommends the allocation of \$71 million over the four-year period to 2015-16 for disaster response education and a pilot program to train female nurses in disaster response in Indonesia.**

#### **Disaster Response Education:**

Disaster risk reduction principles should be integrated across AusAID's major investments in education throughout Indonesia. This includes scope for AusAID to promote the development of emergency preparedness in the education curriculum. Successful models for such an approach could be drawn upon for this program from other parts of East Asia, for example similar education on disaster preparedness in Vietnam.

#### **Pilot Nurse Training Program:**

In the face of increasing disasters, health workers need to be able to deal with female health needs during humanitarian response.<sup>66</sup> In Indonesia and other Asian countries where militaries are often large-scale responders to emergencies, local well-trained female health workers are crucial.

**ACFID recommends an allocation of at least \$20 million of the proposed \$71 million, over the four year period to 2015-16, for a pilot program in Indonesia focused on training local female health workers in responding during disasters and humanitarian crises.**

The proposed pilot program in Indonesia could be modelled on the successful Pakistan program (see below) and the local tradition of 'floating nurses', with training for female health workers during disaster response delivered by Australian NGOs or other actors in partnership with educational institutions and local in-country partners. If successful, the program could be scaled up with similar training offered to other countries in Asia and the Pacific.

#### **A Successful Model - 'Lady Health Workers' in Pakistan:**

Pakistan offers an example of an encouraging scheme of delivering health services in a context where cultural norms may not allow women to be examined by male physicians, and where women's mobility may be restricted. The 'Lady Health Worker' national program is centrally funded and directed, but the female health workers are hired as contract agents, and are employed in the communities where they reside. They deliver treatment for minor ailments, and they provide immunisation and reproductive health services.

A 2001 review of the program by the UK's DFID calculated that it has had larger impact on health outcomes per unit of cost than comparable alternative services, and the program also proved to be successful in disaster contexts.<sup>1</sup> In the 2006 Pakistan earthquake, over 8000 community and female health workers were mobilised, and it is thought to be in great part a result of this that mortality and morbidity rates in the days after the disaster were considerably lower than expected.

### **Recommendation 13.2: \$47 million over four years for National Early Warning Systems in East Timor**

East Timor remains prone to natural and human induced disasters, which can quickly overwhelm both local and national level capacity to respond. Food security in Timor Leste remains precarious and is made more vulnerable due to extreme weather events, poor infrastructure and remoteness for many communities. As noted in the Government's East Timor Country Strategy, "the agricultural sector is characterised by low productivity and is vulnerable to climate change. Food insecurity affects up to 80 per cent of households in some districts."<sup>67</sup>

<sup>66</sup> Anna Dimitrijevic, 'Mainstreaming Gender into Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction', The World Bank Institute, 2007.

<sup>67</sup> Australian Government, [Australia-Timor-Leste Country Strategy, 2009 to 2014](#), 2009, p.3.



Despite Australian and East Timorese funding directed towards disaster risk reduction, there is still no coordinated monitoring of the food security situation. This leaves the Government and development actors in a reactive mode when it comes to planning for and addressing food insecurity. It also means development gains in East Timor can easily be reversed and that communities remain vulnerable and lack information.

To address this problem, **ACFID recommends that \$47 million be allocated over the four year period to 2015-16 to assisting the East Timorese Government and East Timorese communities to develop national, integrated early warning systems in regard to flooding and food insecurity.** It is envisaged that this funding could support ongoing disaster preparedness activities in East Timor, as part of the *AusAID Australia-Timor Leste Country Strategy*.

### **Recommendation 13.3: \$24 million over four years towards supporting Disaster Management and Preparedness in Cambodia**

**Cambodia has been identified as one of the countries most vulnerable to the negative consequences of climate change.**<sup>68</sup>

The country is subject to an increasing frequency of flooding, which is likely the result of accelerated deforestation in conjunction with climate change. In addition, land use pressures have forced the take-up of small landholdings in increasingly marginal and higher risk landscapes. These factors have exposed increasing numbers of families to livelihood shocks and recurring poverty.

**In order to help families in Cambodia to better prepare for and manage disasters, ACFID recommends an allocation of \$24 million over the four-year period to 2015-16.**

It is envisaged that this funding would:

- Build the capacity of National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) staff and partners in emergency response
- Increase knowledge and awareness within communities and civil society groups of the impact of disasters, including flooding, and the steps that can be taken to minimise damage
- Build the capacity of the Government to develop systems and mechanisms for early warning for disasters and ensure that these systems are used

### **Recommendation 13.4: A \$10 million, four-year, investment in Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Response in Lao PDR.**

The incidence and scale of climate-related disasters in Lao PDR are increasing as a result of climate change and environmental degradation. Upland communities, in particular, are increasingly vulnerable to threats to life, food security and livelihoods, but these have not been given priority in national government categorization of disasters and the development of response policy. Post-conflict hazards are also prevalent, including the persistent presence of UXOs (unexploded ordinances) and toxic run-off from the expanding mining industry.

**ACFID recommends that the Government invest \$10 million over the four-year period to 2015-16 in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response activities in Lao PDR.**

It is envisaged that this funding would:

- Educate and enable women, men and vulnerable groups to better mitigate against, prepare for and respond to the negative impacts of disasters
- Improve the capacity of civil society organisations to prepare for and respond to disasters
- Increase the capacity of the Lao PDR Government, at all levels, to enable it to fulfil its disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response obligations
- Encourage greater accountability within the Lao PDR Government in meeting its obligations to responding to and preparing for disasters and humanitarian crises

<sup>68</sup> See "Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping for South East Asia", Francisco and Yusuf, 2009

### Recommendation 13.5: A \$48 million, four-year, investment in Community Resilience and Emergency Response in Vietnam

There is increasing frequency and severity of disasters in Vietnam, including vulnerability to disasters such as typhoons, flooding and rising sea-levels. Government emergency responses are often limited to the relief phase, and do not adequately address the long term recovery of livelihoods or respond to smaller or medium scale disasters. There is relatively limited investment in disaster risk reduction measures.

In order to compliment the support the Australian Government gives to the Government of Vietnam to respond to large scale disasters, **ACFID recommends a \$48 million investment over the four year period to 2015-16 to support community resilience and emergency response in Vietnam.**

This funding could fill the current gap in emergency response and preparedness by targeting medium scale emergencies. It is envisaged that this funding would:

- Scale up current funding for community based risk reduction, emergency preparedness initiatives and climate change adaptation
- Target the most needy and vulnerable communities
- Drive collaboration between NGOs and local authorities to assist affected communities to respond quickly to medium scale emergencies

### Recommendation 14: \$47.6 million over four years for Avoidable Blindness Initiatives in East Asia

Activities under the Government's Avoidable Blindness Initiative are currently being implemented in **Vietnam, Cambodia, and Timor Leste**, and will be further enhanced with funding from the 2011-12 Aid Budget allocation of \$21.3 million. However, more funding is needed in these three countries to ensure that the causes of blindness are holistically addressed and that health systems are strengthened. ANGOs are also currently working to combat avoidable blindness in **Indonesia, Philippines, Burma, Laos, and Mongolia**.

The 2012-13 Aid Budget provides an excellent opportunity to fund allocations for blindness prevention within these country programs and extend the current commitment. **ACFID recommends a commitment of \$47.6 million over the four year period to 2015-16 for avoidable blindness initiatives in East Asia.** It is envisaged that this commitment would include a further **\$19.8 million** over four years for Vietnam, Cambodia and Timor Leste and a new commitment of **\$27.8 million** over four years to fund the expansion of Australia's leadership role in Indonesia, Burma, the Philippines, Laos and Mongolia.

**Table 18: Avoidable Blindness Initiatives in East Asia**

Avoidable Blindness Initiatives in East Asia:	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, avoidable blindness initiatives in East Asia	5	8	14	20.6	47.6

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, through supporting large-scale disease prevention, vaccination and treatment.
- 2. Promoting opportunities for all**, including education and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.

This funding is desperately needed. Indonesia, for instance, has the second highest prevalence of blindness and vision impairment in the world, behind only Ethiopia. ANGOs and AusAID are ideally placed to contribute to the elimination of avoidable blindness in Indonesia, thereby contributing to Indonesia's development and providing a tangible demonstration of Australia's commitment to this crucial bilateral relationship. Funding is most needed in the five provinces highlighted by AusAID's Country Strategy 2008-2012 as being among Indonesia's poorest — Papua, West Papua, Aceh, Nusa Tenggara Timur, and Nusa Tenggara Barat. Further information about this initiative and proposals for each country listed can be found in Vision 2020 Australia's publication [Towards 2020](#).<sup>69</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Vision 2020, *Towards 2020*, 2010.

### Recommendation 15: \$15 million over four years for assistance to Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border

ACFID welcomes the Government's Interim Statement on Australia's Strategic Approach to Aid in Burma (December 2010), which says that Australia will:

- Expand on activities that target immediate needs in health, education and livelihoods and food security, focusing on vulnerable populations across Burma and on the borders with Thailand and Bangladesh
- Support the building blocks of reform by strengthening the capacity of people and organisations in the health, education, and livelihoods and food security sectors

We also welcome the Australian Foreign Minister's interest in dealing with the humanitarian challenge of assisting people in what he referred to as "some form of 'no man's land'" (the black areas) in Burma.<sup>70</sup>

To support these efforts, **ACFID recommends an allocation of \$15 million, over four years, for ANGOs and in-country community based organisations to provide assistance to refugees on the Thai-Burma border.**

**Table 19: Assistance to Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border**

Assistance to Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, assistance to Refugees on the Thai-Burma Border	3.5	3.5	4	4	15

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, particularly saving the lives of poor women and children through greater access to services – including maternal health services, and improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation.
- 2. Promoting opportunities for all**, including education, empowering women and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.
- 3. Sustainable economic development**, improving food security, incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities.

It is estimated that this funding would allow NGOs to assist around 146,000 refugees on the Thai-Burma border annually.<sup>71</sup> Activities under this funding would include:

- Promoting and supporting livelihood opportunities
- Ensuring continued access to adequate and appropriate food, shelter and non-food items
- Supporting the most vulnerable in refugee communities
- Supporting mutually accountable community-based management which ensures equity, diversity and gender balance
- Providing access to quality primary health care services
- Providing access to quality water and sanitation services, as well as education on hygiene

### Recommendation 16: \$50 million over four years for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Cambodia

Cambodia has one of the lowest rates of access to improved water and sanitation in the Asian region. Recent reporting shows only 56% of the population have access to improved water in rural areas. Even worse is access to improved sanitation, at 67% for urban areas and as low as 18% in rural areas.<sup>72</sup> Three-quarters of the rural population practice open defecation.<sup>73</sup> Cambodian health statistics reflect the negative impacts of this situation, with Cambodia's infant mortality rate and WASH-

<sup>70</sup> The Hon. Kevin Rudd, Minister for Foreign Affairs. Transcript of joint press conference with Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya, Bangkok, Thailand, 14 May 2011

<sup>71</sup> Act for Peace, *Invest in Peace: Opportunities for Australia*, 2011.

<sup>72</sup> WHO/UNICEF (2010) Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water 2010 Update, available at [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org).

<sup>73</sup> WHO/UNICEF (2010) Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water 2010 Update, available at [www.wssinfo.org](http://www.wssinfo.org).

related disability-adjusted life years amongst the worst in Southeast Asia,<sup>74</sup> and WHO reports that 17,309 people die every year from WASH-related diseases.<sup>75</sup>

The financing situation for WASH in Cambodia is shocking. The country is heavily reliant on donor finance in this area. Estimated financing needs are \$US470 million to achieve MDG water and sanitation targets.<sup>76</sup> The UN Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation (GLAAS) survey and a recent National Water and Sanitation Sector Financing Strategy confirm this need, and note the critical need for a continuing, constant level of support from official development assistance<sup>77 78</sup>. The World Bank Water and Sanitation Program Economics of Sanitation Initiative (ESI) has identified the overall economic impact of poor sanitation in Cambodia as equal to \$US448 million per year. Health impacts are the most significant proportion of these costs, at \$US187 million or 42% of total losses.<sup>79</sup>

Despite these statistics, Cambodia receives minimal support for WASH from Australia. The only bilateral donor which currently provides strong support for WASH in Cambodia is the UK. As such, there is an opportunity for Australia to show leadership in this area by increasing WASH funding.

**ACFID recommends a four-year, \$50million commitment to WASH in Cambodia, as set out below.**

**Table 20: WASH in Cambodia**

WASH in Cambodia	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, WASH in Cambodia	5	10	15	20	50

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

**1. Saving Lives**, improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation and supporting large-scale disease prevention and treatment.

**An investment of \$50 million over four years has the capacity to ensure over 900,000 additional Cambodian people have access to improved water and sanitation.**<sup>80</sup>

This initiative would support the implementation of Cambodia's recently approved strategy for Rural Water Supply. In addition, through working with NGOs and civil society the Australian Government can expect a greater return on investment. An investment in the Cambodian Civil Society WASH Fund of \$900,000, for example, is predicted to result in 3,525 additional people having access to improved water and 1,820 additional people having access to basic sanitation.

<sup>74</sup> The probability per 1,000 that a newborn baby will die before reaching age five (2009). Source: World Bank Open Data from the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation.

<sup>75</sup> Source: 2004 update of the Table 1 and Annex of the publication 'Safer water, better health', by Prüss-Ustün et al., WHO, Geneva, 2008 as above.

<sup>76</sup> AusAID (2008) *Cambodia - Water & Sanitation Initiative Program Framework Concept Document*, Water and Sanitation Initiative (WSI), October 2008.

<sup>77</sup> GLAAS 2010 The UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) ([http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/9789241599351/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/9789241599351/en/index.html))

<sup>78</sup> Government of Cambodia (2010). *Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy 2010 – 2025*, Ministry of Rural Development. July 2010

<sup>79</sup> Kov, P., Sok, H., Roth, S., Chhoeun, K., Hutton, G. (2008) *Economic impacts of sanitation in Cambodia*, World Bank, Water and Sanitation Program. 2008

<sup>80</sup> The most recent and widely-cited authoritative source on per capita costs is Hutton and Bartram 2008 (Hutton and Bartram (2008), 'Global costs of attaining the Millennium Development Goal for water supply and sanitation' *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 86 (1): 13-19.) They estimate that the cost of combined access to water and sanitation, averaged across developing regions, is US\$ 36 per capita in 2005 dollars. Adjusting for inflation, this is about \$40 in 2010. They stipulate that this does not include "programme costs" which can be up to 20%, and would take it up to \$48 per capita.

## South and West Asia

### Recommendation 17: \$100 million over four years for a South and West Asia Human Rights Regional Fund

ACFID recommends that the Australian Government explores alternatives to traditional bi-lateral donor aid delivery channels in the South and West Asia region. Specifically, **we recommend the establishment of a Human Rights Regional Fund, of \$100 million over four years, which would enable international and local partners to access funding.**

This funding would be targeted specifically at the most marginalised and vulnerable segments of populations in the region, increasing their capacity to hold governments to account for the delivery of entitlements and services at the local level.

**Table 21: Human Rights Regional Fund**

Human Rights Regional Fund	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, Human Rights Regional Fund	10	20	30	40	100

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

**2. Promoting opportunities for all**, through empowering women to participate in the economy, leadership and education and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.

**4. Effective governance**, through enhancing justice and human rights.

The creation of a Human Rights Regional Fund would:

- Enable Australian aid to be utilised by rights based agencies to develop programming which is explicitly aimed at strengthening the capacity of local civil society and communities to hold their governments to account more effectively. This would be particularly useful for supporting action in countries in the region, which are reluctant to incorporate a rights based focus for their bilateral aid program with Australia
- Enable Australian aid to be utilised to address extreme poverty and marginalisation in larger middle-income countries, such as India, where no bi-lateral aid program exists
- Enable Australian aid to be targeted in a strategic manner to addresses issues which are cross border in nature, such as disaster preparedness, water management and climate change, and which can be effectively addressed at a regional level

### Recommendation 18: \$150 million over four years for Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan

2010 saw the worst floods to have ever hit Pakistan sweep across the country. As of July 2011, more than 800 000 Pakistanis were still in need of permanent shelters and more than 1 million were in need of food assistance.<sup>81</sup>

To help reduce the risk of future disasters, a greater focus on disaster risk reduction is needed in Pakistan. Disaster risk reduction is acknowledged as a 'cross cutting theme' in the Government's Pakistan Country Strategy. The UN has also called for a strengthening of disaster risk reduction initiatives in Pakistan, with a two-day conference in November 2010 organised by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) concluding that such a focus is crucial to strengthening Pakistan's capacity to respond and withstand emergencies like the recent floods.<sup>82</sup>

**Table 22: Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan**

Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, Disaster Risk Reduction in Pakistan	15	30	45	60	150

<sup>81</sup> OxfamAustralia, [Ready or Not? Pakistan's Resilience to Disasters one year on from the Floods](#), July 2011.

<sup>82</sup> United Nations, "Pakistan: UN forum stresses need for disaster risk reduction after recent floods", 11 Nov 2010, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36728>

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, specifically saving the lives of poor women and children;
- 4. Sustainable economic development**, improving food security as well as incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities.
- 5. Humanitarian and disaster response**; directly supporting more effective preparedness and responses to disasters and crises.

It is envisaged that this funding would focus on the worst-hit areas in Northern Pakistan and would include a specific focus on helping displaced people find sustainable incomes. **This is vital to reducing the vulnerability of communities to disasters and to the sorts of frustration which makes them targets for militant recruitment.** In Pakistan, such frustrations are exacerbated by the weakness of local justice systems and the perceived discriminatory nature of some laws, such as those specific to the federally administered tribal areas (FATA).

#### **Recommendation 19: \$50 million over four years for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Nepal**

Despite making headway in providing water to the population, Nepal is off track to meet the sanitation targets set out in the MDGs. In 2010 more than 50% of the population practiced open defecation. There is also a danger of overstating service coverage for water supply, particularly in relation to improved drinking water services, as it is estimated about that about 50% of existing water supply schemes are partly or totally dysfunctional.

The linkage between the lack of WASH coverage, diarrhoeal incidence and infant mortality is evident. Diarrhoea is the second largest killer among under-fives in Nepal, and shows an increase in areas with poor sanitation coverage and hand washing practices. The WHO estimated total WASH-related deaths of 22,231 per year.

Australia currently supports the Health and Education sectors in Nepal and is therefore well placed to ensure better integration between planning in the health and education sectors and WASH. For example, according to Government policy in Nepal, schools must ensure one toilet for every 50 students. However research shows that the average school toilet serves 127 students, nearly three times as many as the government recommends. Of Nepal's 28,000 community schools, only 18,000 have toilets – with only 5,580 providing separate toilets for girls. Australia should be addressing such issues through its involvement in the education sector.

**Building on its current WASH program in Nepal, ACFID recommends a commitment of \$50 million over four years for WASH initiatives.**

**Table 23: WASH in Nepal**

WASH in Nepal	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, WASH in Nepal	5	10	15	20	50

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation and supporting large-scale disease prevention and treatment.

**This funding has the capacity to ensure an additional 900,000 people have access to improved drinking water and sanitation, as well as strengthening governance and institutions in the WASH sector.**

It is envisaged that this funding would directly provide services, as well as building capacity in the WASH sector and addressing key sectoral blockages. This would mean putting in place higher priority sector policies and strategies, and improving governance and sector monitoring mechanisms. These systemic changes would all result in improved service delivery to more people.



## Africa and the Middle East

### Recommendation 20: \$380 million over four years towards investment in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) across Africa

ACFID commends current Australian Government funding aimed at providing safe water and sanitation to 1.2 million people in Southern Africa.

Throughout Africa, the need for WASH funding is pressing. Only nine African countries are on track to meet the sanitation target for MDG 7 and only four of these are in Sub-Saharan Africa. 231 million people still practice open defecation.<sup>83</sup> Many more do not wash their hands with soap after using the toilet, with figures ranging from 70% in Kenya, 85% in Tanzania and 97% in Ghana.<sup>84</sup> Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for over a third of total number of people without access to improved drinking water, and is lagging behind in progress towards the MDG target, with only 60% of the population using improved sources of drinking-water despite an increase of 11 percentage points since 1990. Keeping pace with population growth also remains a challenge, despite increased access to drinking water between 1990 and 2008 (56% to 65%), the total number of people relying on unimproved water sources rose by 63 million during the same period.<sup>85</sup> **It is these low WASH coverage rates that serve to explain why diarrhoea remains the leading cause of under five child death in Africa.**<sup>86</sup>

The need, opportunity and 'donor space' exists for Australia to play an important and influential role in supporting African countries to significantly reduce their burden of diarrhoea-related deaths through increased WASH coverage.

**ACFID recommends a new investment of \$380 million over the four year period to 2015-16 for WASH funding throughout Africa.**

**Table 24: WASH in Africa**

WASH in Africa	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, WASH in Africa	50	70	110	150	380

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

**1. Saving Lives**, improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation and supporting large-scale disease prevention and treatment.

**Past Australian Government funding for WASH in Africa has produced impressive results, upon which this new investment could build.** This funding supported the Water and Sanitation Initiative and the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme. Through an investment of AU \$14.4 million, the Water and Sanitation Initiative Civil Society Fund has resulted in 120,850 additional people having access to safe water, and 52,380 additional people having to access basic sanitation in Africa.<sup>87</sup>

### Recommendation 21: \$200 million over four years towards Building Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa

Within the context of the Government's existing plans for growth in Africa, a key priority is the need for long term approaches that will prevent future humanitarian disasters, such as the current crisis in North East Africa. **ACFID recommends an investment of \$200 million over four years directed towards building resilience and sustainable livelihoods in Africa.**<sup>88</sup>

<sup>83</sup> African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), *A Snapshot of Drinking Water and Sanitation in Africa – 2010 Update: A regional perspective based on new data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation*, 2010.

<sup>84</sup> Aunger, R., et al., 2010. 'Three kinds of psychological determinants for hand-washing behaviour in Kenya.' *Social Science and Medicine*. 70:383-391; Curtis VA, Danquah LO, Aunger RV, 2009. 'Planned, motivated and habitual hygiene behaviour: an eleven country review.' *Health Education Research*. 24(4):655-673

<sup>85</sup> African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), 2010.

<sup>86</sup> Black et al (2010) 'Global, regional and national causes of child mortality in 2008: a systematic analysis', in *Lancet* 2010; 375: 1969-87

<sup>87</sup> Willetts, J et al., 'Civil Society Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund: Independent Program Report, February 2011.

<sup>88</sup> This allows for substantial investment to respond to the current Horn of Africa crisis, but also addresses longer term needs in the region. Note that this funding amount takes into account the \$100 million humanitarian assistance currently allocated to the Horn of Africa crisis, and the 2011-12 budget for

This funding would support disaster risk reduction initiatives, food security and support for small-scale producers.

**Table 25: Building Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa**

Building Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, Building Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa	35	55	60	50	200

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

- 1. Saving Lives**, specifically saving the lives of poor women and children;
- 4. Sustainable economic development**, improving food security as well as incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities.
- 5. Humanitarian and disaster response**; directly supporting more effective preparedness and responses to disasters and crises.

Decades of marginalisation, neglect, and under-investment in support for pastoralists and smallholder food producers have contributed to the current crisis. Successful responses to ongoing drought, now and in the future, need to combine emergency assistance with livelihood protection measures which address the underlying issues that cause vulnerability. These approaches should include supporting the mobility of herds, protection of household assets, supply of seeds and tools and supplementary feeding of cattle. Where possible, assistance should build national capacities and reinforce ongoing resilience programming.

The current crisis also shows the vulnerability of poor people in the region to climate variability. This, and other resource pressures, is a major cause of food insecurity, and could result in an intensification of current challenges. In Somalia, for example, the World Food Programme warns that the crisis might become a permanent problem. While communities previously had the relative luxury of several years of regular rainfall to recover from the occasional year of drought, they now have to live in an almost constant state of food insecurity due to a lack of water.<sup>89</sup> In addition, there are predictions of longer term declines in the length of the growing period and productivity for key crops. In this context, investment is desperately needed to help people cope with a changing climate, food price rises, and other shocks.



Dadaab, Kenya. Inhabitants wait eagerly for the arrival of a new water tank that has been installed at IFO camp. Photo: Jo Harrison, Oxfam.

Africa at \$291 million, increasing to a possible \$870 million by 2015-16 (indicative funding suggested in Aid Review Panel report, including distribution of global programs).

<sup>89</sup> World Food Program, Statement By The World Food Programme Executive Director Josette Sheeran On Hunger In The Horn Of Africa, 12 July 2011, <<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/statement-world-food-programme-executive-director-josette-sheeran-hunger-horn-afri>>.

## Recommendation 22: \$20 million over four years to support Vocational Training in the Palestinian Territories and for Palestinian Refugees

A key problem facing young men and women living in the Palestinian Territories and in refugee camps across Lebanon and Jordan is a lack of opportunity to gain professional skills and to earn a sustainable living. As noted by the Government's Budget Papers in 2011, unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza currently stands at 16 and 37 per cent respectively.<sup>90</sup> These high levels of unemployment can contribute to social and civil unrest.

ACFID welcomes the focus on vocational training through the Australia Middle East NGO Co-operation Agreement, and calls for further specific funding for vocational training for young people in the Palestinian Territories.

**ACFID recommends a four-year investment of \$20 million for vocational training programs in the Palestinian Territories.**

**Table 26: Vocational Training in the Palestinian Territories and for Palestinian Refugees**

Vocational Training in the Palestinian Territories	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Yearly breakdown, Vocational Training in the Palestinian Territories	2	4	6	8	20

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

**4. Sustainable economic development**, improving incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities.

It is envisaged that the Vocational Training Programs supported by this funding would occur across Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan and would:

- Provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for young adults (men and women) through a university standard vocational training program
- Target the high demand skills and professions required by the market in the Palestinian Territories, including carpentry & furniture making, metal/aluminium works and welding, general electrical training & motor/transformers rewinding, advanced dressmaking, secretarial & office management and computer skills training
- Include job placement initiatives for graduates

**This funding would support an estimated 2,400 young adults to gain vocational skills over the life of the program.** The program fully compliments existing education and training activities currently being undertaken by ANGOS and their in-country partners.

<sup>90</sup> Australian Government, *Budget 2011-12; An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Reducing Poverty, Saving Lives and Advancing Australia's National Interests*, 11 May 2011, p. 59.

## Recommendation 23: \$5 million over four years to support Rural Livelihoods

ACFID recommends an investment of \$5 million over four years for improved livelihood opportunities in Latin America. This funding will benefit 22,000 people living in rural areas in up to 6 countries in the region.

One of the greatest challenges for small producers in Latin America is inequitable access to markets. Cheap imports are forcing many small producers, particularly those engaged in agriculture, to abandon production and move to urban areas to look for work. The net result of this is rural-urban migration, leading to rapid and uncontrolled urban growth and therefore greater urban poverty. Over 75% of the regional population now live in urban areas, of which one third live in slums. Supporting rural development reduces rural poverty and importantly, provides young men and women with livelihood opportunities that reduce rural-urban migration.

ACFID welcomes Australia's support of micro-credit programs in Peru and Colombia, but this must form part of a broader range of pro-poor economic development activities that the Australian aid program should undertake in Latin America.

**Table 27: Supporting Rural Livelihoods in Latin America**

Recommendation	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Supporting Rural Livelihoods in Latin America	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	5

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

**3. Sustainable economic development**, Improving food security, rural development and social protection, supporting private sector development & trade, improving incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities, reducing the negative impacts of climate change & other environmental factors

It is envisaged that this funding would support:

- Families to organise in producer groups linked to local, regional and national business and production organisations
- The development of develop business plans and capacity building in new or improved production, processing and storage techniques.
- Producer groups to access financial services through savings groups and microfinance.
- Training in business, administration and marketing to develop management and commercialisation skills.

This funding has the capacity to create an improvement in living conditions for an estimated 22,000 people.

## Recommendation 24: \$3.2 million over four years to provide Economic Opportunities to Youth

ACFID recommends a four-year, \$ 3.2 million initiative to provide economic opportunities for over 2,000 youth living in impoverished communities in rural and urban areas, covering up to 4 countries.

High levels of unemployment and precarious informal employment conditions are key development challenges for young people in Latin America. Through improving the economic opportunities of adolescents, young people are less likely to become trapped in unfair debt repayment structures, which are prevalent in the informal economy, as well as limiting the need to become involved in the black market and other illegal activities to earn a living. Encouraging participation in the formal economy also results in an the increase to the formal taxation base, allowing country governments to provide more in social services and rely less on foreign aid over the long term.

<sup>91</sup> The Independent Review into Aid Effectiveness and Government's Response confirmed that Australia's aid increases to Latin America would be modest (see p. 60 of the Government's Response to the Independent Aid Review). The recommendations suggested in this submission take this into account, with modest amounts proposed for programs that would have a high impact in Latin America.

**Table 28: Providing Economic Opportunities for Youth**

Recommendation	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Providing Economic Opportunities to Youth	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	3.2

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

**2. Promoting opportunities for all**, empowering women and girls to participate in the economy, leadership and education.

**3. Sustainable economic development**, through private sector development & trade -improving incomes, employment and enterprise opportunities.

It is envisaged that this program would involve local, regional and national partners working together to design and implement vocational training programs based on labour market and occupation assessments. Youth would be guided to increase their employability in the labour market or to access financial support to start small businesses.

Projects supported through this initiative should see **improved economic opportunities for around 2,000 adolescents**, either because they are working in an income generating activity or they have improved their employability considerably and are actively seeking for jobs in the labour market.

### **Recommendation 25: \$2.3 million over four years towards Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives in Latin America**

ACFID recommends a four-year, \$2.3 million initiative to support Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America.

This funding would support up to 350,000 people living in vulnerable communities to develop community resilience and disaster preparedness in up to 4 countries.

The effects of climate change are damaging land, homes and livelihoods in Latin America. Cyclones are noted to be increasing in Central America whilst increased melt water from the glacial regions of the Andes has resulted in localised flooding in Peru and Bolivia. This has led to communities experiencing decreased productivity in crops and livestock.

A changing climate and the resulting depleted agricultural land is particularly an acute situation in Central America where 7.5 million people are reported to be malnourished. Additionally, the region's severely skewed income distribution restricts access to nutritional food for the lower income segments of the population. This means that the poor will be disproportionately affected by climate change in Latin America unless there are adequate protection mechanisms in place.

Community-based disaster risk reduction programs will help the poorest adapt to a changing climate and provide resilience in the face of lower crop yields and changing weather patterns.

**Table 29: Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America**

Recommendation	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
Disaster Risk Reduction in Latin America	0	0.76	0.76	0.78	2.3

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program that this recommendation will support:

**3. Sustainable economic development**, investing in Food Security, Sustainable economic growth & private sector development, reducing the negative impacts of climate change & other environmental factors

**5. Humanitarian and disaster response**, more effective preparedness and responses to disasters and crises.

It is envisaged that this program would:

- Establish or strengthen existing structures and mechanisms to identify and manage risks and emergency situations
- Ensure local structures are linked to the regional and national emergency response organisations
- Develop community plans to prevent and mitigate risks and to respond to emergencies, including training for crises
- Support community organisations to implement mitigation initiatives to reduce identified risks

**The result would be strengthened preparedness, resilience and ability to respond to emergency situations for approximately 400 vulnerable communities, with 350,000 residents more resilient and better prepared to respond to disasters.**

**Recommendation 26: \$1.8 million over four years for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Latin America**

Access to water in Latin America remains a political issue. Advocacy efforts at a municipal and national level need to be made a priority in order to secure access to clean water for all people. The significant disparity between equitable water availability and security across and within urban and rural areas in Latin America restricts improved access to water sources. The poorest people also have significantly lower levels of access to water and sanitation than the rest of the population.

The lack of adequate and clean water supply, access to improved sanitation facilities, and poor hygiene practices, are directly linked to infectious disease and rates of malnutrition in Latin America. In rural areas only 73% of the population have access to an improved water supply and 51% still lack basic access to sanitation.

**ACFID recommends an allocation \$1.8 million over four years for community-led WASH initiatives in Latin America.**

**This funding will ensure an estimated 4,000 people have access to improved hygiene and sanitary conditions in remote rural areas in up to 3 countries.**

**Table 30: WASH in Latin America**

Recommendation	Year 1: 2012-13 \$AUm	Year 2: 2013-14 \$AUm	Year 3: 2014-15 \$AUm	Year 4: 2015-16 \$AUm	Total \$AUm
WASH in Latin America	0	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.8

The **Strategic Goals** of the Aid Program this recommendation will support:

**1. Saving Lives**, improving public health by increasing access to safe water and sanitation and supporting large-scale disease prevention and treatment.

It is envisaged that this funding would:

- Facilitate communities in remote rural areas to work with local and national authorities to secure access to safe water sources
- Allow for the establishment and training of community water committees to appropriately manage safe water systems and facilitate the installation of latrines for families living in remote rural areas
- Facilitate education for families about hygiene and sanitary practices





## THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Goal 1:** Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty

**Goal 2:** Achieve Universal Primary Education

**Goal 3:** Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

**Goal 4:** Reduce Child Mortality

**Goal 5:** Improve Maternal Health

**Goal 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

**Goal 7:** Ensure Environmental Sustainability

**Goal 8:** Develop a Global Partnership for Development

**Australian Council for International Development**

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poverty are eradicated*

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