

Independent Evaluation of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program

11 March 2022

This is an update on the evaluation of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) to provide information about the data collection phase for ANCP NGO and local partner consultation. DFAT wants to ensure it has management and implementation arrangements in place that best support NGOs to continue their work in sometimes rapidly changing operating environments. It is therefore timely to assess, through this evaluation, how the ANCP management and implementation arrangements can adequately respond to this changing operating environment.

Recap: evaluation purpose

The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the ANCP as a modality. It seeks to identify ways to strengthen the management and implementation arrangements of the ANCP, particularly in response to the changing development and NGO context. The evaluation is primarily formative; however, a secondary summative focus will also assess high level impacts of the ANCP program.

Key questions for the evaluation are:

1. Is the ANCP modality, including management, implementation and funding arrangements 'fit for purpose' and how can it be improved?
2. Is ANCP supported by robust and appropriate monitoring, evaluation and learning processes?
3. What are the key trends and emerging issues in the NGO sector and international development context that may impact on the ANCP and how should DFAT and ANCP partners address these?
4. How effective is the ANCP modality in assisting ANGOs to reduce poverty and promote sustainable and inclusive development?

Consultation processes

We are aware of the large amount of NGOs and projects and plans that focus on some aspect of the key issues the evaluation will seek to address and we are coordinating our work with ANCP NGOs, the Development Practice Committee (DPC) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other agencies to ensure rigorous consultation processes.

Thematic Roundtables

It is critical that we hear from diverse voices from the NGO sector, and that a cross-section of NGOs provide input into the evaluation process and findings – ALL NGOs will be invited to participate in a series of thematic, virtual, roundtables the week commencing **4 April 2022**, based on the key trends shaping development identified during preliminary consultations with the sector to help inform the most relevant issues that impact ANCP as a modality and the future of the program.

We are seeking **executive level input** into the roundtables given the strategic focus on future trends and what this means for ANCP as a modality. We are asking NGOs to self-select into ONE roundtable of their choice, the options are as follows:

1. COVID-19 and health security – Tuesday 5 April 2022 from 1000-1130 AEST
2. Localisation - Tuesday 5 April 2022 from 1330-1500 AEST
3. Fundraising landscape – Wednesday 6 April 2022 from 1000-1130 AEST
4. DFAT-ANGO relationships - Wednesday 6 April 2022 from 1330-1500 AEST
5. Climate Change – Thursday 7 April 2022 from 1000-1130 AEST

6. Humanitarian-Development Nexus – Thursday 7 April 2022 from 1330-1500 AEST
7. Intensifying Geopolitical Landscape - Friday 8 April 2022 from 1000-1130 AEST
8. Innovation - Friday 8 April 2022 from 1330-1500 AEST

NGOs will be invited via email to register on Eventbrite from the **11 March 2022**.

Written Submissions

In the week commencing **14 March 2022**, NGOs will be invited to provide written submissions to inform the evaluation. Written submissions will be used to dig deeply into specific questions and gather insights from NGOs. A specific template will be provided with the call for submissions to inform and guide responses by NGOs. Written submissions will be due close of business on the **22 April 2022**. The template, guidance note and platform for online submission will be provided in a separate email.

Findings Presentation

Recommendations are improved by the early involvement of DFAT and stakeholders. The evaluation team will use a collaborative approach to drafting the report and incorporating feedback. NGOs will be invited to a findings presentation on the afternoon of the **20 May 2022**. The validation workshop will be interactive and participatory and will utilise online whiteboarding software (i.e. Google Jamboard, Lucidchart) and polling tools (i.e. through Zoom functions, Slido, Mentimeter).

Strategy Testing Workshops

Following validation of the evaluation findings a subsequent workshop will be held to test recommendations that relate to ANCP NGOs. This Strategy Testing Workshop will be held on the afternoon of the **27 May 2022**.

Consultation with Local Implementing Partners

6 x one-hour virtual Focus Group Discussions with local implementing partners (LIPs) will be undertaken the week commencing **11 April 2022**,

in local language to ascertain the views of grassroots agencies.

Countries selected to identify Local Implementing Partners (LIPs) for consultation include:

- 1 x one hour Solomon Islands
- 1 x one hour Timor Leste
- 1 x one hour Indonesia
- 1 x one hour Democratic Republic of Congo
- 1 x one hour Vietnam

The evaluation team will analyse program data to identify projects operating in each of these countries and contact ANGOs leading these projects (**contact will be made with ANGOs the week commencing 14 March 2022**) to provide introductions to the relevant Local Implementing Partners.

Feedback opportunities on key deliverables

Following review of the **Aide Memoire** on the **6 May 2022**, copies will be shared with ANCP NGOs to inform discussion at the Findings Presentation.

Subsequent to this, the **First Draft Evaluation Report** will be shared with ANCP NGOs on or shortly after **10 June 2022** for written feedback.

Confidentiality and research protocols

Participation in consultation activities are voluntary and you do not have to answer the questions or provide any information that you do not want to. Any information provided during the various consultation and data collection activities will be used only for the purposes of this evaluation. All individuals will remain de-identified (unless agreed otherwise).

Evaluation Team and Questions

More information about the project is available from the Tetra Tech evaluation team, please contact:

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