



2018 ANNUAL AID EVALUATION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This 2018 Annual Aid Evaluation Plan produced by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) outlines the independent evaluations of aid funding which DFAT plans to complete and publish in 2018.

The Annual Aid Evaluation Plan is a key part of DFAT's [Aid Evaluation Policy](#), which was introduced in November 2016. The Policy emphasises that evaluations should be commissioned and conducted to maximise the use of evaluation findings and recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the aid program.

This Annual Aid Evaluation Plan has been endorsed by DFAT's [Independent Evaluation Committee](#) and approved by the Secretary of DFAT.

The Annual Aid Evaluation Plan is in two parts. The first part outlines the strategic evaluations which will be undertaken by the Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE). The second part outlines program evaluations which will be commissioned by DFAT's country, regional and thematic aid programs.

STRATEGIC EVALUATIONS

Strategic evaluations are assessments of Australian aid that focus on key policy directions, specific development themes and sectors, or large programs. These evaluations are independently initiated, managed and conducted by ODE. They typically examine a number of investments, often across multiple countries, regions or sectors.

The following principles guide the selection of strategic evaluation topics:

- » Policy relevance: assessing progress on implementation of the Australian Government's policy priorities
- » Potential learning benefits: focusing on areas where there is a strong demand for insight, information or guidance
- » Coverage and materiality: over time ODE's evaluations should provide appropriate coverage of expenditure by sector, theme, country and region
- » Risks to aid effectiveness: examination of issues which pose a challenge to the Australian aid program and its reputation.

ODE will complete and publish six strategic evaluations in 2018, as outlined in Table 1. All strategic evaluations will have a management response which will be completed by the relevant DFAT division.

Table 1: Strategic evaluations to be published in 2018

Topic
Climate change assistance ¹
Disability-inclusive development (in humanitarian programs and through “mainstreaming” in bilateral investments)
Economic partnerships in Asia
Pacific health assistance
Quality review of 2017 program evaluations
Review of DFAT’s approach to investment-level monitoring

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

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

DFAT country, regional and thematic aid programs are required to identify, prioritise and complete a reasonable number of independent evaluations per year. These ‘program evaluations’ focus on the highest priority issues facing each program. Larger programs are generally expected to complete a higher number of evaluations.

As outlined in Table 2, 50 program evaluations are expected to be published in 2018. All program evaluations will include a management response which will be completed by the relevant DFAT program. Some programs will not publish any evaluations in 2018, but will be expected to undertake evaluations in 2019 and beyond.

¹ Climate change evaluation carried over from 2017 Plan

Table 2: Program evaluations to be published in 2018

Program	Planned evaluations
PACIFIC: 23 evaluations	
PNG	<p>PNG Transport Sector Support Program* The evaluation aims to improve performance of this \$400m investment, which focusses on building a safe, reliable transport system. This evaluation has been carried over from last year and is being led by ODE.</p>
	<p>Election Support Program Evaluation The evaluation aims to assess results and inform future Australian support for elections in PNG and regionally.</p>
	<p>PNG Governance and Leadership Precinct Evaluation The evaluation will review results to date and identify ways to improve performance of this \$127m investment, which aims to support PNG systems and institutions necessary for inclusive economic growth and service delivery.</p>
	<p>Oro Bridges Project Evaluation This independent evaluation will undertake an economic and social impact assessment of the Oro Bridges project.</p>
	<p>Youth with a Mission Grant Evaluation The evaluation will assess the results and value for money to inform feasibility of continuing support for the Youth With a Mission medical ships which address health care and related training needs in PNG.</p>
	<p>Education Direct Finance Support program Evaluation Australia is investing \$429m over nine years to support basic, secondary education, TVET and higher education in PNG. The evaluation will assess results and value for money to inform new programs under direct finance support.</p>
Pacific Regional	<p>Justices Services and Stability for Development Mid-Term Review This investment of \$100m over four years is strengthening the capacity of core law and justice agencies to deliver essential services. The evaluation will assess progress and inform ongoing support to the law and justice sector in PNG.</p>
	<p>Markets for Change Evaluation* This 18m investment implemented in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Fiji is building more inclusive and safe markets to promote women’s economic empowerment. The evaluation will assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, monitoring and evaluation, and impact of the program.</p>
	<p>Improving Community Based Fisheries Management and Aquaculture in Pacific Countries and PNG Evaluation The evaluation assesses progress and implementation of this \$69m investment which aims to increase the contribution of fisheries to reducing poverty and achieving sustainable development in the Pacific.</p>
	<p>Private Sector Development Initiative Mid-Term Review The evaluation will assess progress and highlight issues to inform future implementation of this \$23m investment which is promoting private sector economic growth across the Pacific.</p>
Solomon Islands	<p>Education Sector Program 2 Mid-Term Review * An independent team will examine the long-term performance of the above investment.</p>
	<p>Joint Annual Performance Review of the Health Sector Support Program The annual assessment will measure progress against mutually agreed performance linked funding indicators of this 66m investment, which supports the Solomon Islands government to provide health services to its citizens.</p>



	Solomon Islands Growth Program Mid-Term Review The evaluation will assess implementation and performance of Australia's \$50m support to the economic growth portfolio.
Fiji	End of Program Evaluation – Access to Quality Education Program This \$64m investment aims to reduce the barriers for children to accessing education in Fiji. The evaluation will assess program effectiveness, value for money, sustainability and relevance and inform DFAT's future engagement with the Fiji Government through the Ministry of Education.
	DFAT-International Finance Corporation (IFC) Partnership Mid-term Review The evaluation will assess program performance of this IFC partnership which supports private sector development and economic growth in Fiji.
Vanuatu	Tropical Cyclone Pam Recovery program Evaluation * Following Tropical Cyclone Pam in 2015, Australia committed \$35m for long-term recovery projects. The evaluation will examine the progress against End of Program Outcomes and consider the program's modality and governance arrangements to inform future DFAT-funded recovery programs.
Tonga	Skills Program Mid-Term Review The evaluation will assess progress and implementation of the Skills Program which addresses the lack of access across the country to quality skills development services linked to economic development priorities, particularly for young people.
	Review of Economic, Governance and Budget Support Programs The evaluation assesses the impact of Australia's economic and governance programs, which are supporting reforms to strengthen revenue, effectively manage government expenditure, reduce debt and promote private sector growth.
Kiribati	Kiribati Disability Inclusive Development Program Review This investment supports a range of activities that aim to better deliver health and education services to the most vulnerable and excluded, including people with disabilities. The review will assess progress against intended outcomes and provide recommendations for continuing investment in this area.
Nauru	Nauru Improved Health Review the health sector context and performance of Australia's health support between 2014 and 2017, and make recommendations for refocus/improvement within a new investment from 2018-2020.
	Nauru Improved Education Assess progress between 2014 and 2017 against intended outcomes and provide recommendations for continuing investment in improved education.
	Public Sector Reform This evaluation will assess progress between 2014 and 2017 against intended outcomes and provide recommendations for continuing investment in public sector reform.
	Nauru Infrastructure and Services Assess progress between 2014 and 2017 against intended outcomes and provide recommendations for continuing investment in infrastructure and services.



SOUTH EAST ASIA: 17 evaluations

Indonesia	Multilateral Development Bank Infrastructure Assistance Program Evaluation This \$50m investment delivers infrastructure technical assistance to the Government of Indonesia through the World Bank and ADB. The evaluation will assess results and identify ways to improve the existing investment.
	Water and Sanitation Hibah Phase 2 Evaluation The evaluation will assess results and identify ways to improve the existing \$120m investment (over 10 years), which provides incentives for local governments to increase their investment in water and sanitation services.
	KOMPAK Governance for Growth Evaluation This \$80m facility's goal is to ensure poor and vulnerable Indonesians benefit from improved delivery of basic services and greater economic opportunities. The evaluation will assess results, which will inform DFAT's decision whether to proceed with a second phase.
	Generasi Sehat dan Cerdas (Healthy and Smart Generation) Wave IV Impact Evaluation This \$226m over 11 years investment provides analytic and advisory support to help the Government of Indonesia reduce poverty and inequality through improvements to basic service delivery. The evaluation will assess impact on health and education outcomes.
	Indonesia Partnership for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (MAMPU) Phase 2 Mid-Term Evaluation This \$52m investment aims to improve the access of poor women in Indonesia to essential services and other government programs. The evaluation will assess performance and value for money, and identify ways to improve the investment.
Timor-Leste	Workforce Development Program Evaluation This initiative is a five-year program of Australia Awards and in-country scholarships for Timor-Leste. The evaluation will assess results and inform design of the next phase of the strategy.
	Evaluation of Australia's Contribution to Private Sector Development in Timor Leste This multisector evaluation will assess the effectiveness of Australia's approach to private sector development in Timor Leste to inform future activities.
Philippines	Basic Education Transformation mid-term review* The evaluation will assess performance and identify ways to improve this \$157m over nine years investment, which aims to improve learning achievement and access to basic education in the Philippines.
	Coalitions for Change Independent Completion Evaluation Australia is investing \$45m over seven years in a partnership with Asia Foundation in the Philippines to influence policy reforms. The evaluation will assess results of this centrepiece activity, which establishes and supports formal and informal networks to contribute to transformative change.
	Australia-World Bank Philippines Trust Fund Evaluation The evaluation will assess the effectiveness and inform future structure and functions of this \$47m over 10 years investment, which supports a range of programs that contribute to long-term inclusive growth in the Philippines.
Cambodia	Cambodia Communications Assistance Program Evaluation The evaluation will assess outcomes and consider the value in continuing this investment, which aims to improve the use of government radio stations to strengthen citizen voice in government accountability and transparency.
	Cambodia Agricultural Value Chain Phase 2 Mid-Term Evaluation This \$66m investment aims to reduce rural poverty by improving the productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers in Cambodia. The evaluation



	will identify improvements required, with a focus on policy dialogue and strategic influence.
Vietnam	Vietnam Aus4Skills Mid-Term Evaluation This \$40m facility aims to strengthen the level of professional and technical knowledge, skills and competencies in Vietnam. The evaluation will assess outcomes, performance of the managing contractor, and inform any changes required for the program. Southern Coastal Corridor program* The evaluation will assess performance on completion of this \$45m co-financing to the Asian Development Bank for road upgrades to link key economic zones in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.
Myanmar	Myanmar School Grants and Stipends Mid-Term Evaluation* This \$84m investment is a contribution to a World Bank Trust Fund for the Government of Myanmar-led Decentralising Funding to Schools Project. The evaluation will assess performance, including innovative financing and monitoring approaches, to inform future programming.
Laos	Basic Education Quality & Access in Laos Mid-Term Evaluation Australia is contributing \$60.7m over five years to improve basic education outcomes in Laos. The purpose of the evaluation is to improve existing investments, verify performance and examine value for money.
South East Asia Regional	ASEAN Shaping Inclusive Finance Transformations Mid-Term Evaluation The evaluation will assess progress against objectives of this investment, which aims to develop and expand pro-poor financial markets in the ASEAN region.

SOUTH AND WEST ASIA: 8 evaluations

Afghanistan	Review of Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund* Australia is contributing \$452m to this World Bank-led investment, which is the primary multi-donor mechanism for supporting programs in education, health, rural development and microfinance in Afghanistan. The partner-led evaluation will assess the trust fund's performance and fitness for purpose, as part of a 'package' of reviews including DFAT and external reviews. Final evaluation: ACIAR Afghanistan Agricultural Research Portfolio A partner-led, final program review. Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan Review Australia is contributing to this UNDP Trust Fund to support the Afghan national police, including police professionalisation and institutional reform. The review will analyse the performance of the fund and scope to address delivery performance.
Bangladesh	Support to Vulnerable Communities in Cox's Bazar * The evaluation will assess outcomes, examine value for money and inform new programming for this investment, which aims to enhance food security and nutrition for the most vulnerable in the Cox's Bazar District. Mid-Term Review of Strategic Partnership Arrangement with BRAC Phase 2 The mid-term review will assess the effectiveness of an innovative partnership arrangement between Australia (DFAT), the United Kingdom (DFID) and BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) in delivering results in health, education and livelihoods programs in Bangladesh.
Pakistan	Evaluation of Australia's aid to support Sustainable and Inclusive Growth and Employment in Pakistan The evaluation will assess the performance of a number of investments in the economic growth portfolio to inform Australia's next Aid Investment Plan for Pakistan (2019-24).



Sri Lanka	North and East Local Services Improvement Project Independent Completion Report This investment co-financed with the World Bank and Government of Sri Lanka is supporting reconstruction of essential public infrastructure in the conflict-affected Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. The partner-led evaluation will verify performance, examine value for money and inform new programming.
South Asia Regional	South Asia Regional Connectivity Evaluation The Trade Facilitation and Infrastructure initiative aims to reduce poverty by increasing intra-regional trade and connectivity to achieve accelerated and sustainable economic growth. The evaluation will verify performance, review effectiveness and efficiency and inform next phase of support for regional connectivity.
HUMANITARIAN: 2 evaluations	
Humanitarian (including Emergency Fund)	DFAT's implementation of the Protection in Humanitarian Action Framework (July 2013) The evaluation will review DFAT's approach to humanitarian protection, inform new humanitarian program designs and improve existing humanitarian investments. Evaluation of Australian Red Cross Humanitarian Partnership The evaluation will assess the outcomes of DFAT funding for Australian Red Cross (ARC) humanitarian response and preparedness activities since 2015-16. This will inform a new and improved partnership design, recognising ARC's ability to deliver against DFAT's Humanitarian Strategy.

*Evaluations that were deferred from the 2017 Aid Evaluation Plan