

## Consultation Paper: Performance Benchmark for Australia

We are responding to a request by ACFID to make a written submission to DFAT before 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

We will divide this submission into three parts.

1. Identifying Global Development Group.
2. We will give a response to the consultation paper.
3. There is a portion of the aid budget that is allocated to NGO's.  
Global Development Group will address this area.

### About Global Development Group

Global Development Group (GDG) is a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) carrying out overseas humanitarian projects with approved partners, providing aid and long-term solutions to help relieve poverty to the World's poorest.

As an approved organisation under the OAGDS scheme (answerable to DFAT and the ATO) GDG aligns its projects with the Australian Government's Aid Program and its commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In 2012, GDG was the 9th largest Aid & Development NGO within the members of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) (ranked according to donations received from the Australian public). in terms of the amount of funds raised from the public. The organisation consistently raises more than \$25 million per year from the public. This makes the organisation the second largest "home-grown" Australian NGO within the international aid & development sector – it is one of only two organisations in the top ten that are not international subsidiaries of large global NGOs.

Global Development Group works on a project basis in nearly 30 countries, allowing donors to 'give to their passion'. The predominance of funding goes to Uganda, Cambodia, Thailand, Kenya, Ethiopia, China, India, Philippines.

Global Development Group does not receive DFAT funding but is involved in a number of projects where AusAID provides funding from the government, and Global Development Group supplies the funding from the Australian Public. A number of Global Development Group projects were visited by Bob McMullen MP in his official capacity.

Global Development Group:

- Is the Australian partner of 'The World Food Program'
- Supports the administration function of 'Club De Madrid'
- Sent Representative to discussions on Millennium Goals post 2015

Global Development Group makes significant effort to comply to the accreditation standards as well as complete compliance with ACFID self-assessment.

Global Development Group currently has 18 experienced and qualified staff in Brisbane and nine outside of Brisbane. Qualifications of the staff are quite diversified:

PhD – 2 (Development concentrating on agriculture; Cross Cultural communication), MBA – 5, BCom – 2, BBus – 7, BEc – 1 (CPA), MFIN – 1, BSC – 3, MIS – 2, BA – 1, MEd – 2, MCom–1, MICD – 4, BIB- 1, MPA-1.

As well as this, three staff are qualified in audit and have audit qualification in 5 disciplines, at the highest level.

## A Response to the Consultation Paper

### Suggestions:

1. We suggest holding off benchmarking based on a new sector-wide strategy until the creation of the post 2015 development framework.
2. We suggest making information regarding government/non-accredited NGO collaboration opportunities more accessible.
3. We suggest there should be greater transparency on funding/private contracts granted by the Australian government.

### Benchmarks we would like to see:

4. A benchmark tying Australian funding for NGOs to their adoption of a universal Monitoring and Evaluation Framework designed by the Australian government (rather than the NGO partner)
5. A specific government benchmark related to diversifying the recipients of NGO contracts (both accredited and non-accredited) – to avoid stagnation and complacency within the sector and promote innovation in development methods and theory.

## Portion of the Australian Aid Budget allocated to NGO's:

In relation to the last point, the diversification of funding recipients, Global Development Group has an income of only \$28 Million (last financial year). In relation to the overall budget of over \$5 Billion this is negligible; however, except for World Vision, the top 20 NGO's in ACFID only raised a total of \$369 million (2013 ACFID Report).

AusAID had several ways of allocating funds to the NGO's of Australia:

### 1. ANCP

The budget for 2013/14 was \$141 million to over 40 Australian NGO's to deliver 600 development activities in over 50 countries (average of \$235,000/activity).

### 2. Australian Volunteers

The budget for 2013/14 was \$65.5 million. Global Development Group is a strong supporter of this program and is actively involved. We have AVID volunteers in our projects and we train them in our office.

### We would like to comment on ANCP:

Again the bulk of the funding, \$55 million goes to World Vision; the remainder is divided amongst 44 accredited NGO's.

Global Development Group basically agrees with both ANCP and also accreditation and would therefore like to see a benchmark promoting greater inclusion of both accredited and non-accredited NGOs.

*Our understanding is that 'The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australian Aid Program's supports the accreditation process, which is an eligibility requirement of the ANCP Program. The accreditation process is rigorous in order to provide the public with confidence that the government is providing grants to professional, well-managed community-based organisations capable of delivering effective development outcomes.*

*The department will continue to improve the accreditation process to reduce the administrative burden on NGO's and ensure that standards are proportional to the risk and value of individual grants'.*