

The 2015 Australian aid stakeholder survey
AUSTRALIAN AID: SIGNS OF RISK

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PROGRAM IN TRANSITION

Times they are a changing!

The one thing that is constant is change!

Necessity is the mother of invention!



Aid program objective:

“The Australian Government’s aid program will promote *prosperity, reduce poverty, and enhance stability* with a strengthened focus on our region, the Indo-Pacific. The purpose of the aid program is to promote Australia’s national interests by contributing to *sustainable growth and poverty reduction.*”



What are we *all* interested in?

Effectiveness - Success

- *Results*
- *Impact*
- *Improving lives*
- *Sustainability*



What do we need for effectiveness?

- *Translation of purpose into results (operationalisation)*
- *Predictable funding*
- *Appropriate fund allocation (sectorally/delivery partners)*
- *Knowledgeable and committed people within all stakeholders*
- *Communication*
- *Measured risk*



The Transition.

- Perception that the poverty alleviation focus is decreasing
- Understanding the principle of using economic development as the policy approach for sustainable development outcomes and alleviation of poverty.
- The IDC strongly supports the governments new aid policy intent, particularly finding new ways to leverage private sector investment
- Recognising this approach is part of a bigger picture not “the answer”
- The need to build on our experience, trial new approaches that move the aid program forward and respond to changing needs of our partners



Are the funds invested producing intended outcomes?

- The Aid Survey 2015 indicated *concern* that the aid program is now less effective and getting worse rather than better
- Change can be good, but management of change is critical
- The reasons for perceived decline in effectiveness need closer examination and monitoring
- There is concern that the ambition of the program is not matching the funds
- *What can we do* to ensure that the change results in positive results



Where are we at?

- Policy shift has yet to be fully operationalised – gaps between the Political strategy (the new paradigm) and effectiveness of implementation by the department
- Rather than a lack of strategic clarity by political leadership, there needs to be better performance in operationalising the new strategy.
- Implementation is still in transition.
- We all need to learn from each other's perspectives; draw on the strengths and continue to adapt

Communication.

- Requirement for great communication both internally within the aid sector and externally to the Australian public
- Greater investment by all involved to communicate what Australia's aid program is doing and achieving.
- Communicate positive results and the benefits



Milos Raonic

Brisbane International 2016 –

Last year was a bit of a rough year for the planet, maybe in 2016 we'll learn to love each other a bit more

