



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Office of Development Effectiveness

2013 Lessons from Australian Aid & Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports

Jo Hall

This presentation

- Part 1: The Lessons
 - *Lessons from Australian Aid Chapters 1 to 4*
- Part 2: Performance and quality assurance
 - *Lessons from Australian Aid Chapter 5*
 - Quality at Implementation reports
 - *2013 Quality Review Aid Program Performance Reports*

Part 1: The Lessons

- Method for the synthesis of 6 ODE evaluations - January 2012 to June 2013:
 - Australian aid to the Philippines
 - Working beyond government (civil society engagement)
 - From seed to scale-up (rural development)
 - Responding to crisis (HIV AIDS PNG)
 - Building on local strengths (law and justice)
 - Thinking and working politically (policy dialogue)

Lesson one: Using policy dialogue to help Australian aid reach more of the poor

- A range of channels
- Clear purpose and credible advisers

Lesson two: Harnessing the strengths of civil society and the private sector

- Engagement should be informed by a clear analysis of roles
- The aid program can play an important role brokering relations between government, the private sector and civil society

Lesson three: Taking a more institutional view of capacity building

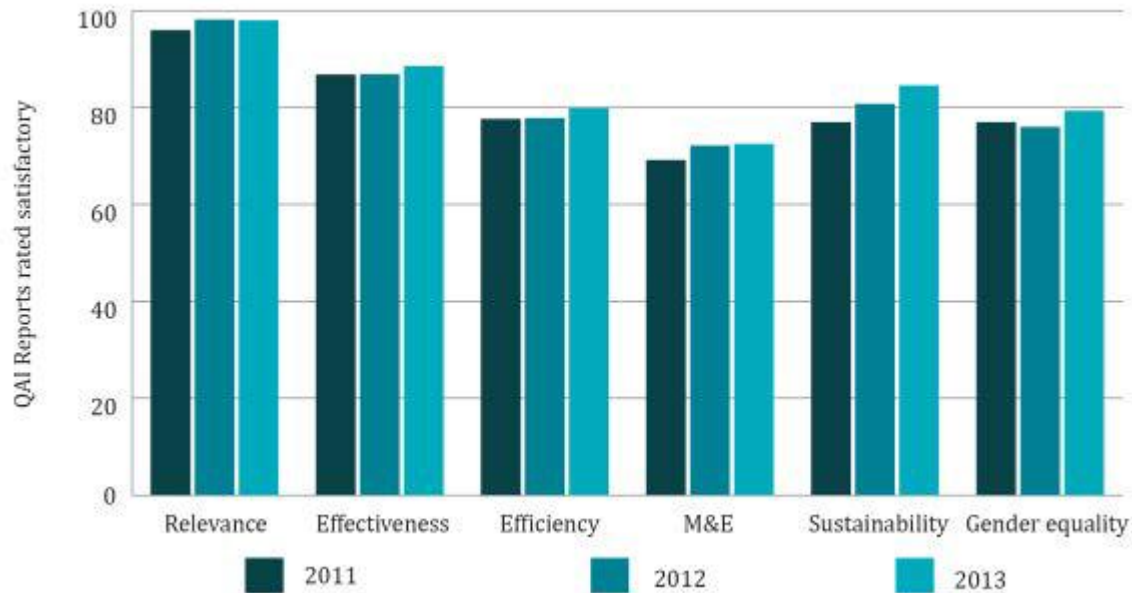
- Assistance should be tailored to local realities
- Avoid isolated activities
- A more institutional view is needed across whole-of-government efforts

Part 2: Performance and quality assurance

- *Lessons from Australian Aid Chapter 5*
 - Quality at Implementation reports
 - *2013 Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports*

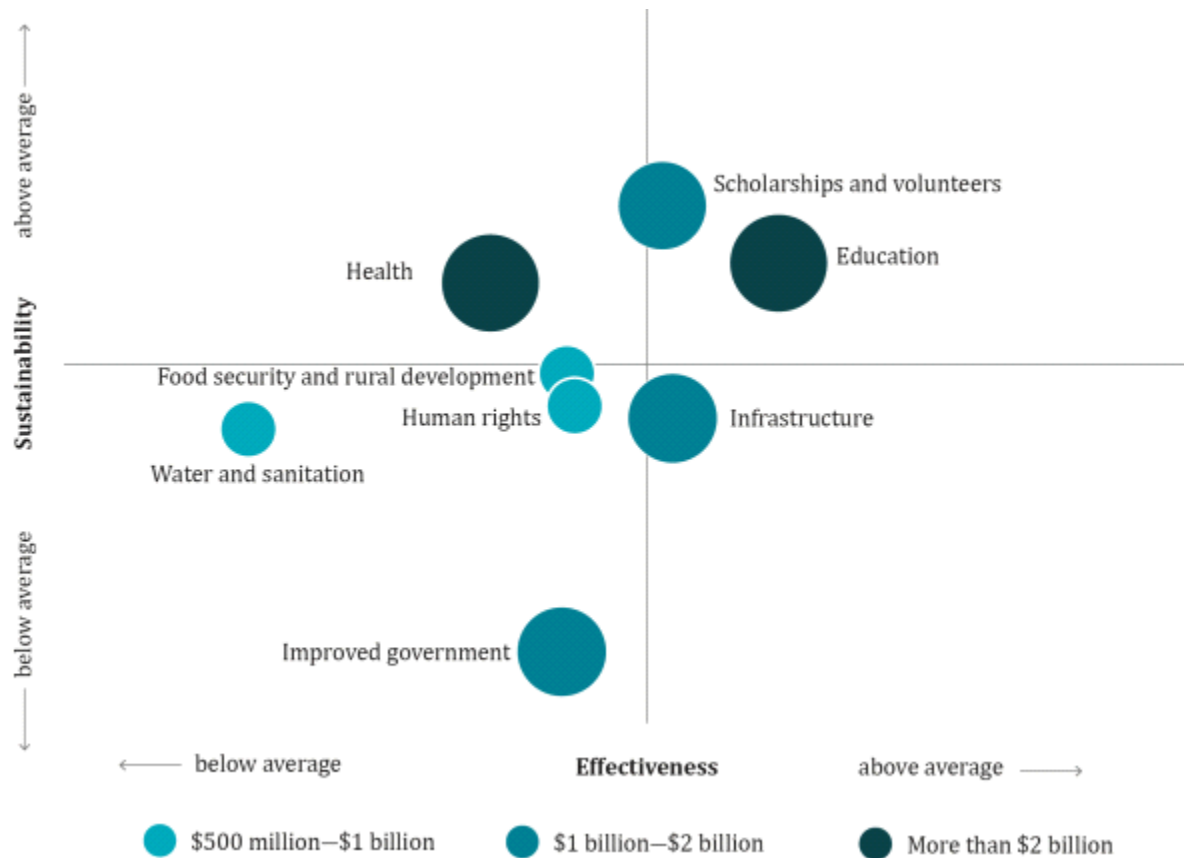
Quality at Implementation

Initiatives rated satisfactory by all quality criteria, 2011–13

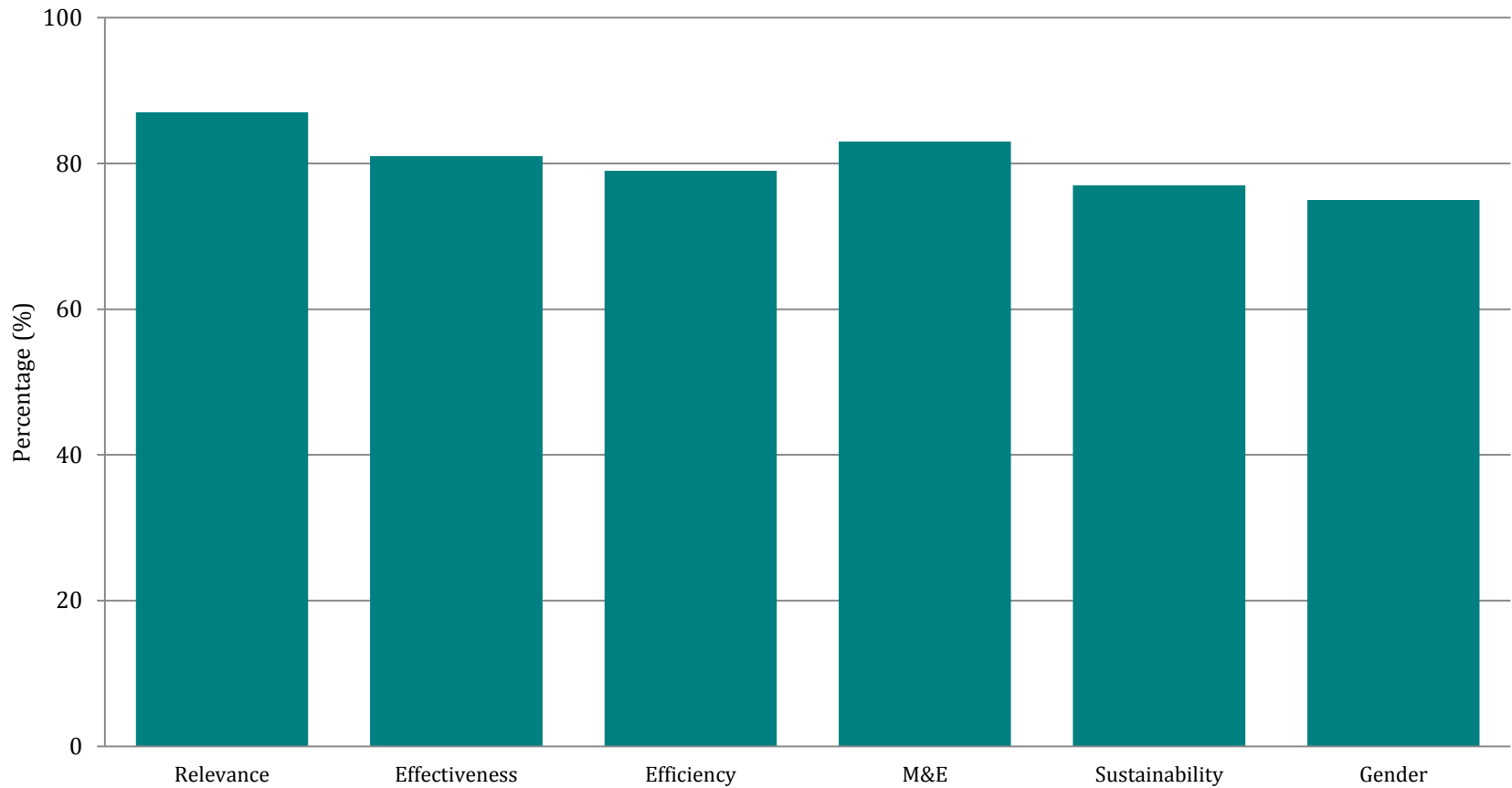


Quality at Implementation

Sustainability and effectiveness criteria ratings in key sectors



Robustness of Quality at Implementation ratings 2013

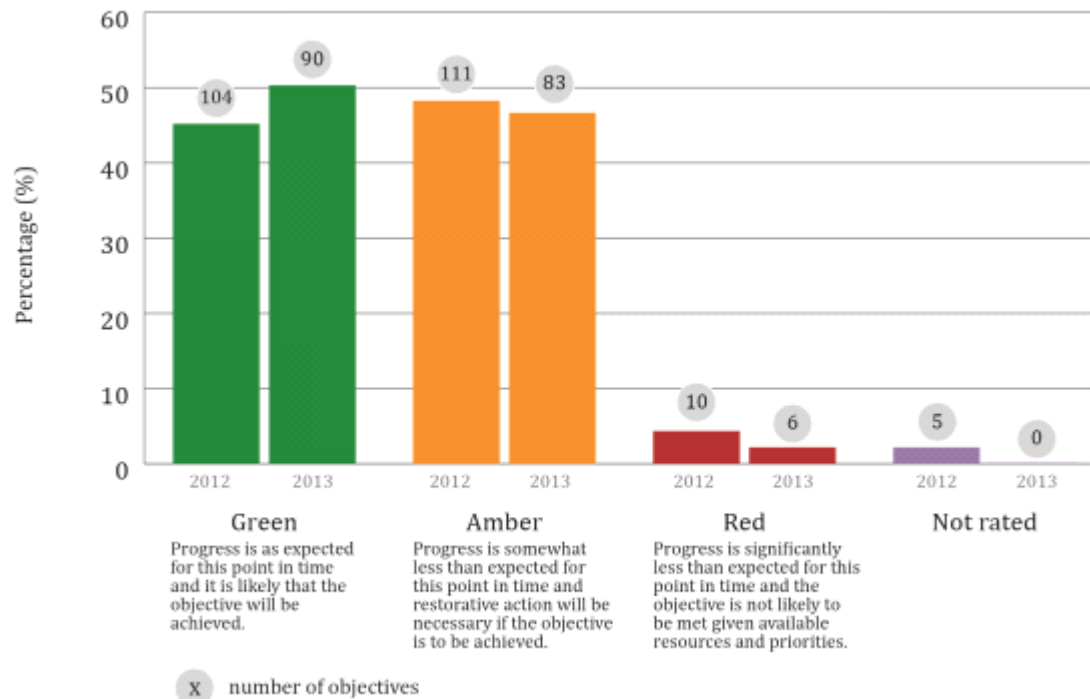


2013 Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports

- Method for review

2013 Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports

Ratings against likely achievement of country and regional objectives, 2012 and 2013



2013 Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports

- The APPRs reveal three key drivers of aid program performance
 - effective policy dialogue, linked to stronger partnerships and improved country ownership
 - capacity building that focuses on institutional support
 - reduced program fragmentation

2013 Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports

- APPR quality is improving
 - Areas of good practice include:
 - appropriate frankness
 - assessment of program progress
 - improved use of evidence
 - the quality of management consequences

2013 Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports

- Further improvements in APPR quality should be sought:
 - explaining the rationale underlying the program objectives
 - broadening the use of credible evidence, particularly that gathered from partners
 - ensuring management consequences and recommendations follow logically

2013 Quality Review of Aid Program Performance Reports

- Performance assessment frameworks are important for good quality APPRs
- Whole-of-government performance needs to be better assessed in APPRs

Lessons from Australian Aid Chapter 5

- Performance systems are generally robust and valued by staff; more could be done to improve their use in aid program decisions

Next Steps

- Work arising for ODE:
 - Activity level monitoring systems
 - APPR means of measuring performance
- 2014 Lessons from Australian Aid
 - Synthesis of operational evaluations
 - Some considerations:
 - Annual Review of Aid Effectiveness
 - Simplification agenda
 - Other reporting instruments
 - Benchmarks