

Unlocking accountability: A new era of development transparency

by Pat Conroy

3 December 2024



Vanuatu Mobile Forces personnel unload Australian aid for affected communities in the aftermath of cyclones Judy and Kevin in March 2023

Photo Credit: Australian Government

Transparency and accountability are the cornerstones of any effective government program.

I am proud to announce the launch of [AusDevPortal](#) — a new, online transparency portal dedicated to Australia’s international development work.

This transparency uplift is part of the Government’s commitment to ensuring that every dollar of [development funding](#) contributes to the outcomes that Australia and our partners want to achieve.

By making information on our investments, results and performance more accessible than ever before, we seek not just to enhance public trust but to provide our partners and the public with the data they need to see the impact of Australian aid.

Transparency in international development is more than just sharing numbers. It’s about building trust with Australian citizens, partner governments and communities across the region.

In the [new international development policy](#), which Foreign Minister Penny Wong and I released last year, we committed to increase the transparency of Australia’s international development program.

We were well aware of the fact that the transparency of Australia’s international development program had been falling for a long time. Under the previous Government, Australia stopped reporting its international development investments to the [International Aid Transparency Initiative](#) (IATI) in 2019.

The effect of that decision carried a long lag. The IATI results that came out in mid-2024 saw our rankings fall away. We are determined to turn this situation

around.

From this week, Australia will again be reporting our international development data to IATI.

Alongside the recommencement of our IATI reporting, the launch of AusDevPortal represents a significant increase in transparency for Australia's aid program.

Through the portal, users can now more easily access information on Australia's overseas development projects, from infrastructure to health and education [initiatives](#). Users can see firsthand how we are contributing to regional stability and sustainable growth.

For Australians, the portal brings to life how our international development efforts help communities — by [fostering resilience against climate impacts, supporting gender equality and reducing poverty](#).

For governments, communities and civil society around the region, the portal helps demonstrate our openness as a partner.

It's also a reflection of the values we hold dear as a nation, aligning our global contributions with a sense of shared responsibility and humanity.

For the first time, the portal gives access to Official Development Assistance (ODA) project, financial and performance data, all in one place.

It allows anyone — from students to NGOs to researchers to our partner governments — to view Australia's international development commitments and see how our efforts are being monitored and evaluated.

Put simply, the portal will show what we're spending, where it's being spent, and importantly, what it's achieving.

From responses to humanitarian crises to long-term health and education investments, AusDevPortal is designed to be an intuitive, accessible way to explore Australia's role in development.

The development of this portal, and our broader transparency uplift efforts, reflect the collaborative spirit that defines Australia's approach to our international development program and how we work with the region.

These are critical to demonstrating who we are as a country and partner, what we value, and what we are doing to advance a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

DEVPOLICYBLOG

Throughout the design process, we consulted with stakeholders — from Australian NGOs to partner governments — whose feedback helped shape a platform that meets diverse needs while staying true to our transparency goals.

This was key to creating a tool that not only informs but also connects development partners and policymakers.

AusDevPortal is being developed in a phased approach, with the first release version intended to be a beta product that will be built over time as user needs evolve, more data and documentation becomes available, and stakeholder feedback is collected.

This portal is just one element of our commitment to rebuilding transparency.

You can see this through the architecture of the international development program flowing from our 2023 policy, including the new [Performance and Delivery Framework](#), the new annual [Performance of Australian Development Cooperation report](#), the creation of Development Partnership Plans (such as for [Indonesia](#) and [PNG](#)) — and the deep, broad and open consultations that underpin all these elements.

These measures represent a level of transparency that will give Australians and our international partners more visibility of and confidence in our development efforts — marking the beginning of a new chapter in how we communicate the value and impact of Australian aid.

As Minister for International Development and the Pacific, I look forward to using this transparency uplift to foster more open dialogue about the importance of development in our region.

Transparency is essential to building confidence in our development program, and supporting better, deeper relationships with our partners across the region.

Access the beta version of the [AusDevPortal](#).

The AusDevPortal was launched at the Australasian AID Conference on 3 December. The livestream is available on [Devpolicy YouTube](#).

Author/s:

Pat Conroy

The Hon Pat Conroy MP is the Australian Minister for International Development and the Pacific.

Link: <https://devpolicy.org/aid-transparency-20241203/>