

ODE releases evaluation of Australian aid to Timor-Leste

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The Office of Development Effectiveness has just released its [evaluation of Australian aid to Timor-Leste](#).

The evaluation sets out to answer three questions.

1. To what extent was Australia's country strategy for Timor-Leste appropriately developed?
2. To what extent did DFAT (then AusAID) effectively manage its assistance program?
3. What results were achieved by Australia's program of assistance between 2006 and 2012?

The main time period of focus is 2009-14, though there is also a fair coverage of earlier assistance.

The answers appear to be:

1. Pretty good. certainly better than for the previous ten years when there was no strategy. There was a strategy for 2009-14, but there should have been more selectivity, and more long-term commitments of support.
2. Mixed. There was too much reliance on multilateral partners, and too many projects, though both of these problems were addressed to some extent post 2009 or 2010. Administrative resources were inadequate, though again this improved over the period.
3. Mixed. The best results are ones where interventions have been sustained for a long period of time (water supply and agriculture – ACIAR's Seeds of Life).

The summary assessments are ours. The evaluation tends to stay away from anything hinting of a bottom line, though it seems to contain a host of interesting insights. In general it is more critical of pre-2009 than post-2009 operations and approaches.

We've been critical ourselves of the last couple of ODE evaluations ([here](#) and [here](#)). We look forward to a discussion of this one. If anyone has the interest and time to write a review, please contact us!