

Written Questions on Notice for DFAT

1. Who is on Development Effectiveness Steering Committee?
 - a. Is this body Afghanistan specific or does it run across the whole of the ODA program?
 - b. Does this body undertake any evaluation of the effectiveness of projects? If so, please detail the nature of this evaluation, which projects have been evaluated, what are the outcomes and whether the evaluation has been made public?

Question referred to AusAID – AusAID accepted

2. As part of overseeing the whole-of-government program in Afghanistan, what evaluation and monitoring DFAT it done of ODA delivered by the ADF in Afghanistan:

- a) Does DFAT play any role in assessing, evaluating or monitoring these projects for effectiveness or how they fit with the MDGs?

No

- b) Does DFAT play any role in assessing, evaluating or monitoring whether ADF delivered ODA meets the requirements of the Comprehensive Aid Policy Framework?

No

- c) Does DFAT play any role in advising the ADF about which projects are the most appropriate or are the most aligned with the MDGs?

No

- d) If so, at what point in project development does this advice come in and is there any obligation on ADF to seek DFAT's advice?

NA

- e) If DFAT has facilitated any form of evaluation or advice on ADF delivered ODA, which projects have been evaluated or monitored? Please be specific about whether the evaluation and monitoring was desk-based or field based, who conducted this evaluation and monitoring and have these reports been made public?

NA

3. Further to DFAT's response to questions on notice, how does DFAT evaluate Australia's whole-of-govt performance in Afghanistan?

DFAT does not generate separate reports/recommendations on whole-of-government performance in Afghanistan.

- i. How often does DFAT report and make recommendations?

NA

- ii. Are the reports written or verbal?

NA

iii. How many reports have been undertaken?

NA

iv. Are these reports or any parts of these reports made public? If so please supply links or copies to these reports?

NA

v. If not, why are the reports not made public?

NA

4. Considering in response to questions on notice DFAT explained that they do not evaluate Australian-funded projects in Uruzgan and that individual Australian government agencies are responsible for providing oversight and management, what happens when that oversight is inadequate, as has been shown with ADF projects? What action, if any, does DFAT take?

DFAT does not take action with regards to oversight of projects funded or managed by other agencies.

5. How does DFAT monitor, evaluate and report on the Direct Aid Programs in Afghanistan?

In Afghanistan, as is the case across the Direct Aid Program, all decisions about the allocation of DAP funds are subject to the DAP guidelines. The DAP is managed by DFAT at Australia's overseas posts. In accordance with the guidelines, applications are assessed on their merits in line with development criteria and objectives established by DFAT, AusAID and each post. All successful projects must demonstrate clear humanitarian or development outcomes for a disadvantaged group of people. Projects must also fall within the OECD Development Assistance Committee sectors. Under the DAP guidelines, posts must have in place well-defined risk management strategies and transparent accountability processes and be able to justify their selection processes when reporting on their annual DAP allocation expenditure. Further details about the DAP guidelines can be found at:

http://www.dfat.gov.au/direct_aid_program/dap_guidelines.html

Posts are responsible for the management of their respective DAP projects, and are required to make best endeavours to confirm that a project is on track to be completed within the agreed timeframe through evaluation of regular progress reports and photographs of the projects and through site visits where practical and/or cost-effective. Advice from regional governments, local councils, NGOs or local cooperatives may also be sought to evaluate whether a project is on track to be completed as required. Posts must also acquit all DAP projects.

a. Please provide details of which Direct Aid Programs have been evaluated and reported on and what the outcome of the evaluation was?

All DAP projects in Afghanistan are evaluated and reported on, in accordance with the DAP guidelines. All DAP projects in Afghanistan have been reviewed and accounted for. A review and evaluation of 2012-13 DAP projects will be undertaken after the end of FY2012-13.

6. Considering in questions on notice DFAT stated “Contacts with the provincial administration and local communities in Uruzgan indicate there is strong support for Australia’s military and civilian mission, and development assistance in Afghanistan”:
- a. How does DFAT measure this support?

DFAT assesses the level of support for Australia’s military and civilian mission and development assistance in Afghanistan based on advice and analysis from a variety of sources. Diplomatic reporting provides advice on trends and the progress of Australia’s whole-of-government policy objectives. Contact with a variety of Afghan interlocutors, including provincial administration officials and local communities, provide feedback on Australia’s role. Input is also provided by other government agencies, including from Defence, AusAID, AFP and DIAC, both in Afghanistan and in Australia.

- b. What evidence is the answer based on?

The evidence for this assessment is based on personal contact and input from relevant individuals, anecdotal evidence, feedback from ISAF partners and the first-hand experience of DFAT officers in Afghanistan.

7. Has DFAT mapped scenarios for enrolment numbers in girl’s school post foreign troop withdrawal? What did this scenarios show?
- a. Does DFAT have plans in place to counter any decrease in enrolment numbers?

Question referred to AusAID – AusAID accepted

Additional Questions on Notice referred to DFAT from AusAID – DFAT accepted

2. Mr Goledzinowski: Our linkages with the private sector in Afghanistan are not as diverse as they are in other countries for obvious reasons. It is still an emerging sector and one where there are not comprehensive commercial links between Australia and Afghanistan at this stage. We hope in the future that that will be possible. There is an Afghanistan Business Council with which we have links in Kabul and it is part of the broader engagement with government and civil society. At this stage it is fairly limited in the scope of what it can achieve.

Senator FAWCETT: Are you looking to bolster its capacity around government business opportunities and accessing finance? Because it is ultimately when the private sector gets on its feet that they will have a viable economy and jobs and a motivation to maintain a civil society.

Mr Goledzinowski: I would need to take on notice whether there has been any specific capacity-building assistance provided in that sector. In principle I agree that that would be the longer-term objective, but whether it is happening or possible at this stage, I would need to take that on notice. (*Committee Hansard*, p. 31)

There are a number of programs under the ARTF that specifically target private sector development. For example, the Afghanistan Rural Enterprise Development Program supports the

development of village-based enterprise activities, as well as small-medium enterprises in rural and semi-urban areas. Support is through access to finance markets and business services; assistance to improved marketing and quality of products; and facilitating better business links through the supply chain.

AusAID is also contributing to the Afghanistan Business Innovation Fund, managed by the UK Department for International Development (DFiD), a small grants program that provides opportunities for small and medium enterprises to invest in capital, innovative technology and 'up-skilling'.

Mining

12. What degree of control does the Australian government have over the operation of Australian mining companies overseas? For example, do Australian companies have to abide by environment regulations or standards set in Australia?

The Australian Government actively encourages Australian companies to develop corporate social responsibility policies, both on and offshore, including by promoting programs such as the Leading Practice Sustainable Development Program for the Mining Industry and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

Australian companies are responsible for ensuring they abide by local laws overseas as well as Australian laws that apply extraterritorially to their overseas activities. DFAT conducts industry outreach to businesses about these laws.

13. Is it feasible for Australia to enact legislation to ensure that Australian mining companies operating overseas are held to the same social and environmental standards as they are in Australia?

This question would be better referred to the Attorney-General's Department.