



7th May 2018

Committee Secretary

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

PO Box 6021

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

jscfadt@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Submission to the Inquiry into the strategic effectiveness and outcomes of Australia's aid program in the Indo-Pacific and its role in supporting Australia's regional interests.

Oxfam Australia is an independent, not-for-profit, secular development agency whose vision is of a just world without poverty. Oxfam Australia undertakes long-term development programs, provides emergency response during disaster and conflict as well as support the rights of poor and marginalised people to achieve equality. Oxfam Shops supports hundreds of producer partners and artisans in countries around the world, including Indigenous Australian producers and businesses.

We are a long-term Australian Government development partner. Oxfam Australia is a member of Oxfam International, a global confederation of organisations that work together, last year collectively reaching more than tens of millions of people around the world.

For this Inquiry Oxfam Australia is submitting to our paper *The Future of Australian Aid: A blueprint for an aid program that delivers on the Sustainable Development Goals*.

This paper covers the key areas of interest to the Committee, including innovation, interactions with the private sector and outcomes for women and girls.

Outcomes for women and girls is central to this paper and there is a section on Gender Equality with a focus on integrating gender analysis, new programming approaches and gender equality performance.

Regarding innovation, Oxfam Australia won the 2017 Australian Financial Review 'Best Social Innovation' for our Weather Index Insurance program and pages 38-39 of the *Future of Australian Aid* outlines more information on innovationXchange and gives recommendations in this area.

Considerations of the private sector are integrated throughout our paper as an integral part of the future of aid, both with regards to innovation as well as being relevant to accountability and safeguards in the delivery of aid. The paper also mentions the crucial role the private sector plays in ensuring human rights are upheld across their operations.

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As a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and as outlined in the 2017 Foreign Affairs White Paper, Australia is committed to the next stage of an ambitious global project: to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. To deliver results for the world's poorest, most vulnerable and marginalised people, Australia's aid program and domestic policy must be aligned to all the SDG, while also allowing relevant, specific SDG to be addressed on a project--by--project, contextualised basis for maximum impact and relevance.

The Future of Australian Aid also covers the following areas of interest to the Committee:

- the strategic and development goals of the aid program
- the role of Australia's aid program in fostering confidence, stability, sustainability, capacity, community-determined goals and best outcomes, particularly by utilising local procurement and smaller/local entities
- increasing the participation and engagement of women in private sector development opportunities;
- business partnerships, social enterprise and community investment in delivering development outcomes, with a focus on local entities; and
- the role Australia's aid program plays in building influence as a trusted development partner;

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Sincerely

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Dr Helen Szoke AO
Chief Executive
Oxfam