



Budget Recommendations | Fact Sheet 1

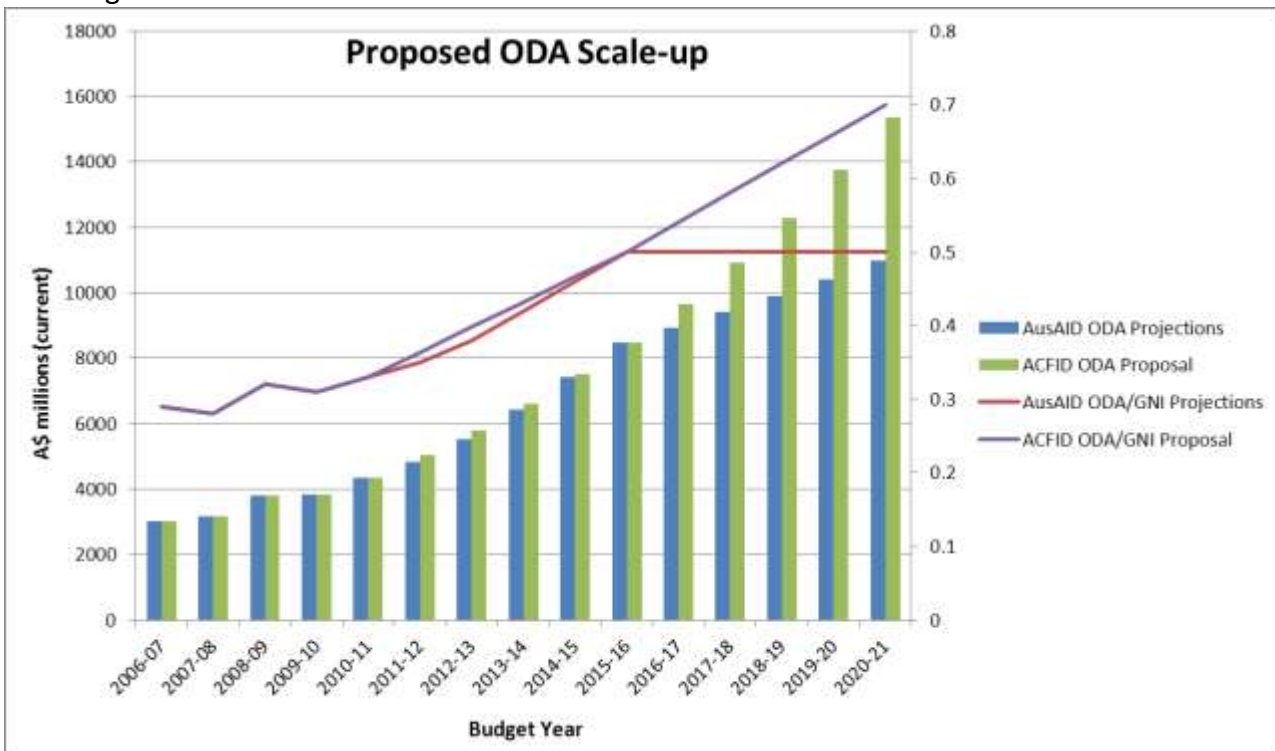
Doing Our Fair Share

Australia must do its fair share in order to ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are met, and progress is made in the poorest nations and communities. This means reaching internationally agreed targets for overseas development assistance (ODA), and targeting initiatives towards the least developed countries (LDCs), as well as those groups and individuals who fare the worst within developing nations.

Recommendation 1.1 – Announce a Timetable for Reaching 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) in Official Development Assistance

ACFID recommends that a clear timetable be announced for accelerating the Australian aid budget to 0.7% of GNI. First pledged 40 years ago in a 1970 General Assembly Resolution, the 0.7% target has been affirmed in many international agreements over the years, including the March 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg later that year.¹

As of 2009, only the Netherlands, Norway, Luxembourg, Sweden and Denmark had reached or exceeded the target of 0.7% of GNI towards overseas development assistance (ODA).² In the same year, Australia ranked 16th out of 23 nations for the provision of ODA as a percentage of GNI.³ The United Kingdom has moved to legislate to accelerate its ODA to 0.7% of GNI by 2013. While ACFID welcomes bipartisan support for lifting Australia's aid budget to 0.5% of GNI, we urge the Government to announce a clear timetable for reaching 0.7%.



¹ UN Millennium Project, <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/press/07.htm#04>, last accessed November 2010.

² LDC Watch (2010) *Position Paper on the Millennium Development Goals, No MDGs without LDCs*, Nepal p.5.

³ OECD figures published 2010, cited from LDC Watch, op. cit.



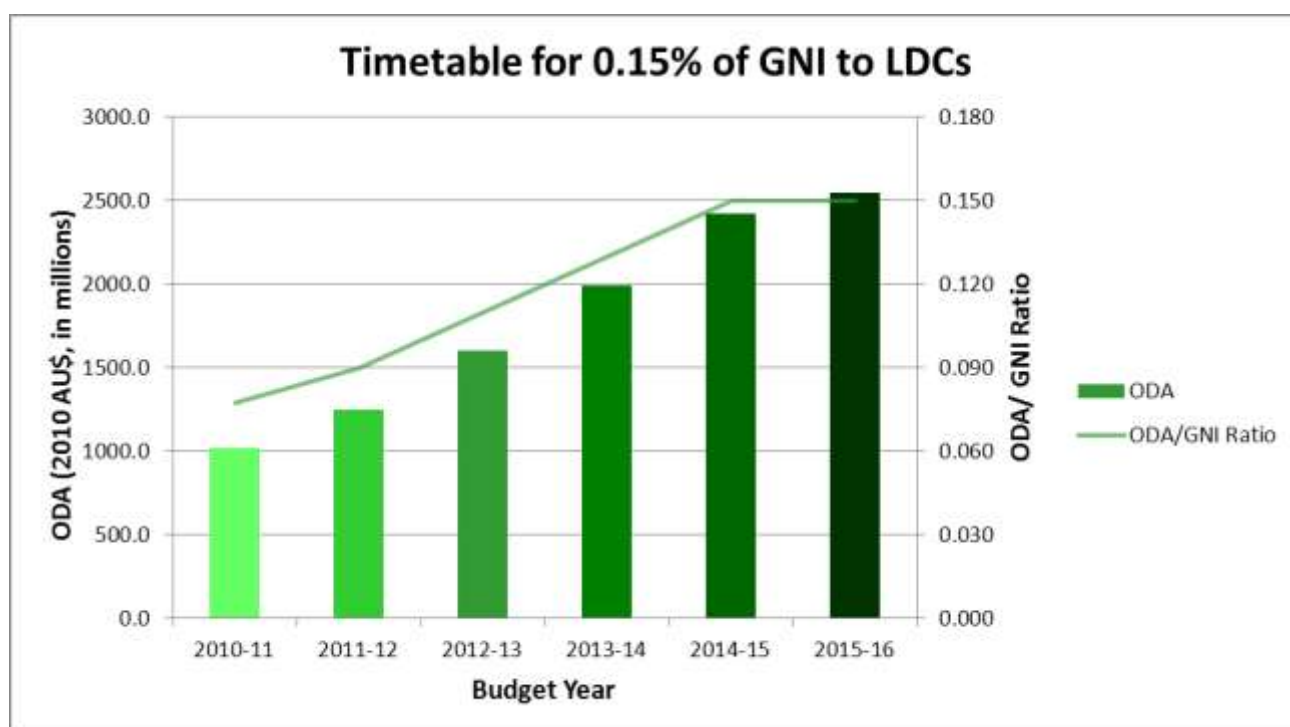
Recommendation 1.2 – Announce a Timetable for Providing 0.15% of GNI in ODA to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)⁴ by 2015

It is easy to forget that many countries receive aid and development assistance, and so reaching international goals like the MDGs may appear to be tracking positively when overall averages are calculated. However, the ‘tyranny of averages’ can hide real disparities that exist between countries.⁵ In the world’s poorest nations many of the MDGs will not be met by 2015 unless greater action is taken by both developed and developing country governments. The Gillard Government has committed Australia to working towards 0.15% of GNI in aid to the LDCs in line with international targets.⁶

ACFID recommends that a clear timetable be announced to increase the proportion of ODA directed to the world’s poorest countries to 0.15% of GNI by 2015, as well as the provision of at least 0.09% of GNI to LDCs in 2011-12 (equating to approximately \$1254.3 million).

ODA delivered to these nations needs to focus on the poorest communities, addressing poverty and promoting human rights and social inclusion.

Budget Year	ODA (AU \$m current)	ODA/GNI	ODA to LDCs (AU \$m current)	ODA/GNI going to LDCs
2010-11	4349	0.33	1018.7	0.077
2011-12	4878	0.35	1254.3	0.090
2012-13	5587	0.38	1617.3	0.110
2013-14	6515	0.42	2016.5	0.130
2014-15	7528	0.46	2454.8	0.150
2015-16	8632	0.5	2589.6	0.150



**Note: GNI based on average nominal growth of 5.5% as suggested by Treasury forecasts*

⁴ The United Nations Economic and Social Council decides which nations are classified as LDCs. Currently there are 49 LDCs, these nations have the lowest national incomes and populations with the highest malnutrition, child mortality and illiteracy rates in the globe. Fifteen of the world’s LDCs are our neighbours in Asia and the Pacific.

⁵ LDC Watch, op. cit., p.3.

⁶ Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd, *Australian Statement to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (Millennium Development Goals Summit)*, New York (22 September 2010)

Recommendation 1.3 – Additional Support for People Living with Disabilities

Additional funding is required to build on the strength of the Australian aid program's disability inclusive agenda. **Worldwide, approximately 650 million people live with a disability, and 80 % of all people with disabilities live in developing countries. People living with disabilities are among the poorest and most vulnerable in their communities.** They face significant risk of social exclusion and barriers to accessing education, health services, the right to earn a living and participation in decision making.⁷

ACFID recommends the allocation of \$100 million in 2011-12 towards initiatives aimed at supporting people living with disabilities in developing countries. Initiatives supported by this funding could include:⁸

- A disability and community rehabilitation services program of \$14 - \$20 million;
- Capacity strengthening of Pacific partner governments and disabled people's organisations (DPOs) especially to help ratify and implement provisions under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
- A Youth Leadership Program for Pacific Island countries and Timor Leste involving young people living with disability - integrated under the Pacific Leadership Program and linked to Australian volunteer programs;
- Establishment of a senior champion within AusAID at the Deputy Director General level, with a title such as 'Disability-inclusive Development Ambassador' (similar to the HIV Ambassador);
- Research programs, including cross-sector research through a disability lens; commissioned research such as Australian Development Research Award (ADRA) program; and survey data collection to ensure consistent global data on people living with disabilities in developing countries; and
- Reviewing and improving current programs to be inclusive of people with disabilities, ensuring that those with 'hidden disabilities', such as psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, are also included.

⁷ AusAID (2008) *Development for All: Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009 - 2014*, p.5

⁸ Funding for these activities would be in line with the following core outcomes of the Government's disability inclusive development strategy, *Development for All: Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009-2014*, launched in November 2008: Core outcome 1: Improved quality of life for people with disability; Core outcome 3: Effective leadership on disability and development; Core outcome 4: AusAID skilled and confident in disability-inclusive development; and, Core outcome 5: Improved understanding of disability and development



PHOTO KEVIN EVANS/CARE OF AUSAID

Players of the Cambodian National Volleyball League (Disabled) compete at the Kien Khlaeng Sports Court at the Veterans International Rehabilitation Centre in Phnom Penh, the centre receives AusAID funding under the Landmine Assistance Program.