



**Australian Government**

**AusAID**

## **AusAID / NGO Committee for Development Cooperation**

A Joint Committee of the Australian Agency for International Development and Australian Non Government Organisations

### **Notes from the CDC**

### **Highlights of the 106<sup>th</sup> CDC meeting held on 10 June 2004.**

#### **Attendance:**

##### **NGO Representatives**

Ms Wendy Rose

Mr John Deane

Mr David Syme

Ms Jo Thomson

##### **AusAID Representatives**

Mr Dereck Rookan-Smith

Ms Judith Robinson

Mr Paul Lehman

Mr Peter Ellis

##### **CPS Representatives**

Ms Cilla Ballard

Ms Dianne Matters

(Secretary)

Mr David Gower

Ms Maree Meredith

##### **Observers**

Ms Rhonda Chapman,

ACFID

Ms Trish Mc Ewan,

ACFID

##### **Apologies**

Mr Charles Tapp

Ms Margaret Winn

Mr Sheldon Rankin

Mr Keith Joyce

##### **Chair**

Ms Ellen Shipley

## **POLICY AND STRATEGIC ISSUES**

### **AusAID priorities**

Mr Dereck Rookan-Smith ADG/AUSP briefed CDC on major policy and program challenges including:

- 2004-05 Budget outcome - The Australian Government will provide \$2.133 billion as ODA in 2004-5, an increase of \$239 million from last year. Programs promoting good governance will comprise one third of total ODA, including: increased ODA to PNG to an estimated \$436 million; more than doubling ODA to the rest of the Pacific (from \$176 million to an estimated \$383 million) including over \$200 million for Solomon Islands.
- DAC Review - Ireland (Development Cooperation Ireland) and the UK (DFID) are Australia's peer reviewers for the 2004 DAC review of the development cooperation program. A three-week visit by the team to PNG, Canberra, and Cambodia and will focus on five themes:
  - Partnership approaches, including harmonisation
  - Policy coherence
  - Poor performance
  - Results-based management
  - Humanitarian assistance

The review team will meet with ACFID and a number of NGOs in Canberra and in the field to discuss their perspective on global development issues, and the role of Australia and of NGOs.

- Update on Cooperation Agreements

Mr Rooker-Smith also briefed CDC on his recent meetings with government international development agencies in Europe. Points of notable interest were the broad definition by DFID of 'civil society' to include trade unions, business groups, universities, etc., the trend of European donors to work directly with and build capacity of civil society groups in the South and focus on aid effectiveness.

- Volunteer policy - Ms Shipley provided an update on AusAID's volunteer policy. AusAID expects to release the policy early July - although the calling of an election may cause further delays - with the tender process to be called 4 weeks later and open for 8 weeks. Ms Shipley emphasised that for currently funded VSAs can expect timely consideration of extension and transition arrangements.

#### **NGO PRIORITIES**

No issues were raised under this agenda item.

#### **Review of Accreditation Systems and Processes: Recommendations**

CDC agreed on the following accreditation recommendations identified in the March Review of the AusAID NGO Accreditation Process and Systems:

- The accreditation cycle needed to be a dynamic process responsive to changing priorities and able to incorporate incremental improvements. From the beginning of 2005, accreditation would become a rolling, ongoing program rather than discrete 5-year cycles.
- Changes agreed to (below) will be introduced in a staged approach. A timetable for their introduction will be discussed at CDC 107 (unless identified below), with implementation commencing 2005.
- Oversight of the management and administration of Accreditation will remain with AusAID's CPS. (Rec I)
- After final changes are decided, the Agency Profile template will be rewritten, especially the section on Financial Management.
- Organisation Reviews Overseas (OROs) will cease from 31 December 2004. (Rec VIII). AusAID will advise agencies due for accreditation January 2005 of the change and request more comprehensive information (e.g. on partnerships) to be provided at ORA.
- The distinction between Base and Full Accreditation will be removed, (Rec in H5) subject to clarification of the impact of these changes and suitable transition arrangements being developed, and considered at CDC 107.
- Review teams will comprise two AusAID-appointed consultants approved by CDC. Consultants will participate in annual training workshops run by NGO/CDC members (Rec III). CDC Members and AusAID staff will cease direct involvement in the undertaking of reviews (Rec V and VII) but new CDC members will attend the training workshop and observe on at least one review. AusAID will oversee the development of a Reviewer training package including a standardised manual of procedures (Rec IV).

- The process for NGOs disagreeing with accreditation decisions will be better articulated. (Rec XI)
- All NGOs will provide annual exception reporting to AusAID on their accreditation status. (i.e. if there have been any changes within the organisation/systems/processes). (Rec XII)
- Indicators for criterion B3 will reflect the current priorities of the Australian Government, by including sections on counter-terrorism and child-sex tourism. (Rec XIII) (see 'Counter Terrorism Provisions' following).
- The accreditation criteria will be rationalised. (Rec XIV)

### **Re: AusAID/NGO relationship**

- The NGOPI will be simplified, with links to AusGUIDE on practical programming matters. Timing will depend on resources and other changes planned. (Rec XXIV)
- Mechanisms for full and frank feedback between NGOs and AusAID will be improved. (Rec XXV). Options will be explored with CDC and ACFID.
- Annual AusAID/NGO consultations will be reinstated (Rec XXVI), with AusAID's preference for the day preceding the ACFID meetings. Voting for CDC elections will take place at annual ACFID meetings, replacing postal voting.

### **Performance Information**

CDC resolved that further consultation and consideration is required to determine where performance measurements appropriately sit and how they can be most effectively and strategically integrated, to maximise benefit and reduce workload for both AusAID and NGOs. It was agreed that a review of ANCP in 2005 was timely, but in the interim it was important to commence work on collecting performance information.

A staged approach was agreed for moving forward on this issue:

- Recommendations XVII and XX to commence implementation immediately, which will be advised to NGOs by AusAID:

"XVII: Smaller agencies below a given IPF (approximately \$200,000) will be able to roll their 5% evaluation funds into a second year."

"XX: AusAID will gather annual evaluation reports from agencies (funded by the 5% that ANCP allows for M and E) and undertake a meta-evaluation."

- Principles for a way forward and an interim process, incorporating accreditation review findings, will be developed through consultations between CPS and DPAC and presented for discussion/decision at CDC 107 in October 2004. ACFID will coordinate these consultations to take place around the DPAC Canberra meeting 30 July.

## **Counter-terrorism provisions**

CPS provided an update on the introduction of the Counter Terrorism Provisions and advised that funds would not be released to agencies until Amendment 1 has been signed by the agencies.

CDC agreed to the draft additional wording developed by CPS for inclusion in Criterion B3 of the Accreditation Criteria Table, to reflect current priorities of the Australian Government in relation to the new Counter-Terrorism Guidelines, Child Sex Tourism and security. (as follows)

## **Examples of Indicators**

The organisation has procedures and systems in place that:

- Ensure that funds will not go directly or indirectly to individuals or organisations associated with terrorism;
- Reduce the risk to field staff in areas of insecurity;
- Ensure that no support is given to any individual with any conviction under the Crimes (Child Sex Tourism) Amendment Act.

## **Possible verifiers**

- Evidence that the strategies identified in the Counter Terrorism Policy are being followed;
- Evidence of specific incorporation in a risk management strategy;
- Evidence that the two lists on the DFAT and National Security websites are checked regularly and updates on the website are taken into account;
- Written agreements with implementing partners covering counter-terrorism and child sex tourism obligations, including immediate notification if required;
- Evidence of appropriate checks in relation to employment/contracting of individuals

## **Accreditation Review Report**

Assisi Aid Projects was reaccredited at base level.

## **ANCP**

### **RDE/IPF Update**

CPS provided an update on RDE calculations and IPF allocations for 2004/05. Problems were identified with some agencies in their calculations of volunteer services and gifts-in-kind. CDC was assured that this will not happen again, due to new procedures for scrutiny of RDE sheets. There were no late submissions of RDE sheets this year.

### **Single payment for Full agencies**

CPS advised CDC that from financial year 2004-05, Full agencies will receive ANCP funding in one yearly payment.

### **Outcomes from ACFID MIFs**

ACFID stated that most issues from the MIFs had been dealt with in the discussion of accreditation review.

## **Next Meetings**

**CDC 107**

**Thursday 7 October 2004**

**CDC 108 & CDC 109**

**To be determined at CDC 107**