

World Vision



NextGen Aid

Report Card on Children
and Australian Aid

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This is the first annual Report Card on children and Australia's aid program. It quantifies and assesses for the first time Australia's aid investments in children.

The Report Card finds only a quarter of Australia's development assistance is focused on children, even though children account for half of those living in poverty. World Vision calls on the Australian Government to create a 'next generation' aid program that intentionally invests aid in children. It is a smart investment and breaking intergenerational poverty is the right thing to do.

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This report card is based on quantitative and qualitative analysis from The Social Economy Group.

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Cover Photo: Young boy from World Vision's partner communities, Solomon Islands.
Klezer Gaspar / World Vision

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Executive summary

Children account for half of those living in poverty and more than half of the world's refugees.¹ In 2020, 59 million children required humanitarian assistance—the largest number of children in need since records began.² The region at the centre of Australia's aid program – the Pacific – has one of the youngest populations in the world, with half of the population aged under 23.³

Despite this, Australia lacks a strategy for protecting and empowering children through its aid program. Australia does not track its aid investments in children – nor is there a target for investing in children.

This Report Card quantifies for the first time Australia's aid investments in children and benchmarks Australia against comparable countries (Sweden, the United Kingdom, Canada and Norway). Based on a quantitative analysis of 2018 OECD data and a qualitative analysis of aid strategies, this Report Card scores the performance of Australia's aid investments in children. It examines the overall aid program and investments in four categories: education, health, protection and emergencies.

The findings are stark:

- Less than one quarter of Australia's development assistance is focused on children.
- In absolute terms, Australia's aid program is the least generous out of the five countries assessed when it comes to investing in children, contributing half of Sweden's aid investment in children (US\$1.2 billion) and a fifth of the UK's spend on children (US\$3.1 billion).
- In education – a sector many would expect to be focused on children – Australia's aid investments are primarily focused on providing scholarships for adults rather than increasing access to basic education for children.
- Pacific countries suffer from the worst child stunting rates in the world and yet only 31% of Australia's aid investments in health are focused on children.
- Over half of the world's 26 million refugees are children. Yet only a third of Australia's humanitarian assistance directly targets children.

In good news, Australia has a significant focus on children when it comes to protecting vulnerable people from violence, with 53% of protection funding targeted at children.

This Report Card gives Australia a grade of B- for including children in the aid program - there is much room for improvement. Australia could learn a lot from Sweden and the UK – who top the class in their aid programs' efforts to protect and empower the world's most vulnerable children.

This report calls on the Australian Government to create a next generation aid program; one that puts children at the centre of development and humanitarian assistance to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. It is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. Investing in children brings a triple dividend of benefits: it immediately improves the lives of the most vulnerable children, builds their productivity for future life stages, and lays the foundations for strong development outcomes for the next generation.

To build a next generation aid program, this report calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Establish a child rights unit in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to develop and implement a children's strategy for Australia's aid program with child-specific metrics, targets and benchmarks to track investments made for children.
2. Safeguard children in the Pacific from violence at this time of increased risk during and after lockdowns by investing \$55 million over 3 years in specific programs aimed at ending violence against children
3. Rebalance Australia's investment in education so that at least 30% of the education investment is directly targeting children (in line with the health and emergencies portfolio).
4. Invest in a flagship initiative of AU\$100 million to address child stunting, wasting and malnutrition in the Pacific region.
5. Invest half of Australia's emergency assistance in the wellbeing of children in protracted crises, with a focus on their education, protection, mental health and food security

Taking these steps is critical because children are not only disproportionately affected by poverty and conflict, they are also key to ending poverty and building peace as the next generation of leaders, problem-solvers and changemakers.

The challenges for children

The challenges facing the world's children are immense. Poverty and the aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic are severely affecting children. In humanitarian emergencies, children have very little if any access to education, protection services and mental health support. Children are also vulnerable to various forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. They deserve to be better protected and supported.

Children are more likely to live in poverty than adults

Poverty disproportionately affects children. They represent half of the world's 1.3 billion people living in poverty, yet they make up only one third of the population.⁴ Approximately 387 million, or 19.5%, of the world's children live in extreme poverty compared to 9.2% of adults.⁵ About 43% of children under five years of age in low and middle-income countries risk suboptimal development due to poverty and stunting.⁶ For those 43% of children, the impact is long-term, with studies showing that they can expect to lose an average of 26% from their incomes as adults, potentially trapping them into a vicious poverty cycle.⁷

Growing inequalities, armed conflict, natural disasters, and displacement affect millions of children worldwide. In 2018, almost two thirds of the world's children lived in a conflict-affected country.⁸ Fifty-nine million children, the largest number of children ever recorded, will require humanitarian assistance in 2020.⁹ Forcibly displaced children are particularly vulnerable. However, by learning, playing and accessing the right kind of support they can find ways to cope.

Children's experiences of poverty and humanitarian emergencies are different to those of adults because their needs, opportunities and social situations are different. The effects of child poverty on development cannot be underestimated given that the foundation and building blocks of a person's life are laid in the first 1000 days of life. Childhood is the period during which an individual's lifelong health, cognitive development and growth are shaped and determined. Childhood experiences of poverty and distress often lead to stunting, mental health, behavioural and social problems that extend into adulthood.

Children are suffering from the aftershocks of COVID-19

While the world is currently united in a shared struggle against an invisible enemy, the serious consequences that will challenge us far beyond the current pandemic – the hidden impacts on children – are not yet front of mind.

According to World Vision's research, as many as 30 million children's lives are at risk from secondary health impacts of COVID-19 as lockdowns, fear, and overstretched health systems hinder children from receiving much-needed care.¹⁰ More than 5 million additional children could suffer from malnutrition - including severe wasting - and child fatalities from malaria could increase by 50%.¹¹ The United Nations Family Planning Association estimates an additional 13 million girls may now be at risk in the next 10-12 years as a result of the pandemic.¹² Another study has projected the number of children under five experiencing severe malnutrition, or "wasting," will rise to seven million worldwide.¹³

The lockdowns and economic stress COVID-19 causes are increasing children's vulnerability to violence, abuse and exploitation. Children are being forced into child labour and child marriage as parents desperately resort to negative coping mechanisms to put food on the table. Before the pandemic, 152 million children were in child labour, of which 73 million were in hazardous work, and there are warnings that this could dramatically increase.¹⁴

Unless we prioritise children and act now to address the pandemic's impacts on them, the echoes of COVID-19 will permanently damage our shared future.

Children are suffering in Australia's partner countries

The Indo-Pacific region is the geographic focus of Australia's aid program and yet most countries in the region are struggling to achieve basic outcomes for child wellbeing.

As outlined in the table below, most countries in the Indo-Pacific are not on track to achieve 11 child-focused indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The table below summarises how countries in the Indo-Pacific region are tracking on issues critical for children, such as stunting, wasting, teenage pregnancies, immunisation, school enrolment and completion and child labour. They paint a picture of children struggling in the very region where most of Australia's foreign aid is invested. Papua New Guinea, for example, is not on track to achieve any of the child-focused indicators, while Timor-Leste has achieved only one of the indicators (secondary completion) and the Solomon Islands has met two (under 5 mortality and neonatal mortality).

Table 1: Performance of Indo-Pacific countries on child-focused indicators ¹⁵

| Country | SDG 2 – Zero Hunger | | SDG 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing | | | | | SDG 4 – Quality Education | | SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth | SDG 16 – Peace Justice and Strong Institutions |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| | 2.2 | | 3.1 | 3.2 | | 3.7 | 3.b | 4.1 | | 8.7 | 16.9 |
| | 2.2.1 | 2.2.2 | 3.1.2 | 3.2.1 | 3.2.2 | 3.7.2 | 3.b.1 | 4.1.1 | 4.1.1 | 8.7.1 | 16.9.1 |
| | Stunting under 5 (%) | Wasting under 5 (%) | Skilled birth attendant (%) | Under 5 mortality (per 1,000 live births) | Neonatal mortality (per 1,000 live births) | Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 adolescent females aged 15 to 19) | Infant vaccinations (%) | Primary enrolment (%) | Lower secondary completion (%) | Child labour (% of population aged 5 to 14) | Birth registration (% of children under age 5) |
| Papua New Guinea | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● → | ● ↗ | ● → | ● ↓ | ● ● | ● ● | ● ● | ● ● |
| Solomon Islands | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ↓ | ● ● | ● ● | ● ● |
| Timor-Leste | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ● |
| Indonesia | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● → | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ↓ | ● ↗ | ● ● |
| The Philippines | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ↓ | ● ↓ | ● ↓ | ● ● |
| Vietnam | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↓ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ● |
| Cambodia | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↓ | ● → | ● ↓ | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ● |
| Myanmar | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ● |
| Vanuatu | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● → | ● ↓ | ● ● | ● ● | ● ● | ● ● |
| Bangladesh | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● → | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ● |
| Fiji | ● ↗ | ● ↗ | ● ● | ● ↓ | ● ↗ | ● ↓ | ● ↗ | ● ↓ | ● ● | ● ● | ● ● |

Current Assessment: ● Major challenges ● Significant challenges ● Challenges remain ● SDG achieved ● Information unavailable
 SDG Trends: ↓ Decreasing → Stagnating ↗ Moderately improving ↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement ● Information unavailable

The Pacific region is one of the youngest in the world, with at least half of the region's population under the age of 23 years.¹⁶ This young population, combined with its low school enrolment and widespread child stunting rates, mean child wellbeing should be front and centre of Australia's development strategy for the region. The Pacific has the highest rates of child stunting (43.1%) in the world, and it is particularly prevalent in Timor-Leste (50.2%) and PNG (49.5%). Only one country (Fiji) is not classified as facing major challenges in child stunting. Child labour is particularly prevalent in the Solomon Islands, with 47.8% of children aged 5-14 engaged in some form of labour, which corresponds with a low primary school enrolment rate of 67.5%. The rate of skilled birth attendants for the Pacific region (61.8%) is only trailed by sub-Saharan Africa (58.1%).¹⁷

Violence against children in the Pacific is endemic, with 4 million children experiencing physical punishment and one in 10 girls reporting sexual violence.¹⁸ In PNG for example, 50% of sexual abuse cases attended to by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are children.¹⁹ These figures represent the tip of the iceberg because data collection is poor and inconsistent across different organisations and countries.

As the leading donor in the Pacific and one of the largest donors in the Indo-Pacific region, Australia has a special responsibility to advance child wellbeing and protection in the region. If the 2030 Agenda is to leave no one behind, children must be at the centre of international development and the Pacific region's development in particular.

The business case for investing aid in children

Investing aid in the future of children is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. Every dollar spent on children is an investment in the 'future' human capital of a nation. Aid should be invested in children because its benefits are durable and intergenerational, because the cost of inaction is too great, because it is what Australians expect of the Australian Government, and because it is in the spirit of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty.

The benefits of action are far-reaching and long-lasting

Childhood is when an individual's lifelong health, cognitive development and growth are shaped. That is why the World Bank advises that one of the smartest investments a country can make is to invest in children early to minimise intergenerational transmission of poverty.²⁰

Investing in children brings a triple dividend of development benefits.

1. It immediately improves the lives of vulnerable children
2. It builds the health, capacity and productivity of those children for future life stages
3. It lays the foundations for strong development outcomes for the next generation

Investing in children has an impact across generations so the return on investment is strong. The World Health Organization and the World Bank both attest that the rewards of investing in children early outweigh the cost of corrective measures.²¹ For example, every US\$1 invested in reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health generates US\$20 in benefits.²² Simply increasing preschool enrolment to 50% for children in low and middle-income countries could result in lifetime earnings gains of US\$15–\$34 billion.²³

The cost of inaction is too great

The cost of ignoring children – more than 50% of a growing population – is too great. International development cannot maintain the same approach – reacting to problems and addressing symptoms rather than addressing causes at their root and building resilience, including during early childhood. We have to do development differently.

A Lancet study found a poor start to a child's life can lead to "a loss of about a quarter of average adult income per year."²⁴ The cost of not limiting stunting to less than 15% is several times more than what some entire countries currently expend on health. Similarly, the cost of not addressing developmental delays through preschools and home visits costs more than entire national education budgets. The cost of violence against children in the Asia-Pacific region alone is estimated to be US\$160 billion or 2% of regional GDP.²⁵

It is in Australia's national interest

It is in Australia's interest to have a region that is prosperous, stable and healthy. Investing in children is critical to achieving this. Children who are educated, healthy and happy are more likely to grow up to be productive adults who can positively contribute to their societies and economies while building the resilience of their communities to withstand shocks. Protection from violence, distress, hunger and other adversities also reduces the likelihood of conflict.

Poverty, on the other hand, has a destabilising effect. For example, one UK Government study finds a country with a per capita income of US\$250 has a much higher (15%) likelihood of internal conflict over five years, compared to countries with a US\$5000 per capita income.²⁶ Investing in children improves the health, cohesion and prosperity of communities, and thereby reduces the potential for grievances in the future.

Australians prioritise supporting children

According to the 2019 Australia Giving report, Australians were more likely (3 in 10) to donate to children's causes than any other.²⁷ On top of that, more than 1 in 5 Australians volunteered for a child-related cause – the most popular cause for volunteering.

Figure 1: Top causes that Australians donated to (2019)



The international development charities to which Australians give most are child-focused. In fact, out of the seven most popular international charities, four are focused on children.²⁸ This indicates that Australians would support a child-focused aid program.

Australia has responsibilities under international law

The Australian Government has made commitments under Article 4 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to work within the framework of international cooperation – that is, through its aid program – to protect child rights. In particular, as outlined in General Comment No.5 (2003), the CRC should form the framework for international development assistance related directly or indirectly to children and Australia should accept obligations to not only realise child rights in its jurisdiction, but also to contribute to global implementation.²⁹

The four principles of the CRC are:

- non-discrimination
- the best interests of the child
- the right to life, survival and development
- the right to be heard and taken seriously and the child's right to be guided in the exercise of his/her rights by caregivers, parents and community members, in line with the child's evolving capacities

Australia should embed these four principles in its foreign aid program, placing children at the centre of development and meaningfully engage with them as partners, stakeholders and agents for change. Creating a 'next generation' aid program focused on children would help fulfil Australia's commitments under the CRC.

Australians love donating to and volunteering for children's causes.
Claudia Martinez Perez / World Vision



Australia's aid investments in children: Overall snapshot



OVERALL GRADE:

B-

KEY FINDINGS:

- In absolute terms, Australia's aid program invested \$US597 million in children in 2018, which is the least generous out of the five countries assessed.
- Less than one quarter (23%) of Australia's aid is focused on children.
- As a percentage of its aid program, Australia's investment in children is roughly the same as comparable countries, behind Sweden and the UK but above Norway and Canada.

State of play

Child wellbeing outcomes are not monitored or reported on. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade tracks aid investments in infrastructure, women, and the private sector, but it does not track how much it invests in children. To fill this gap, World Vision commissioned this original research to quantify Australia's aid investments in children by using data from the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Creditor Reporting System. The same methodology has been used to quantify the child-focused aid spend of comparable countries (Sweden, the UK, Norway and Canada).

Although half of those living in poverty and more than half of the world's refugees are children, less than one quarter of Australia's development assistance is focused on children. In 2018 Australia invested US\$597 million or 23% of its aid budget in children. Most of this spending was on child education (7% of the aid program), followed by child health (4%) and children in emergencies (4%).

Lack of a guiding children's strategy

There is no strategy in place, at a sectoral level or whole-of-aid level, to guide or drive Australia's aid investments in children.

A detailed review of country and regional Annual Performance Reports found insufficient focus on children in the performance frameworks of programs. Of the 27 programs reviewed there were only nine examples of objectives focused on children and only four in the Pacific.

Similarly, a review of existing aid program policies and strategies found an insufficient focus on children. Agriculture, fisheries and water, aid for trade, economic infrastructure, effective governance and private sector development take little account of children in their policies. Notably, some only refer to children in the context of child protection policy compliance and safeguarding obligations. The newly released Partnerships for Recovery strategy on Australia's COVID-19 response and recovery effort also has little to say about the wellbeing of children. However, there are some welcome signs in the new Development Program Performance Assessment which recommends some child-related indicators.

Proportion of budget targeting children 2018

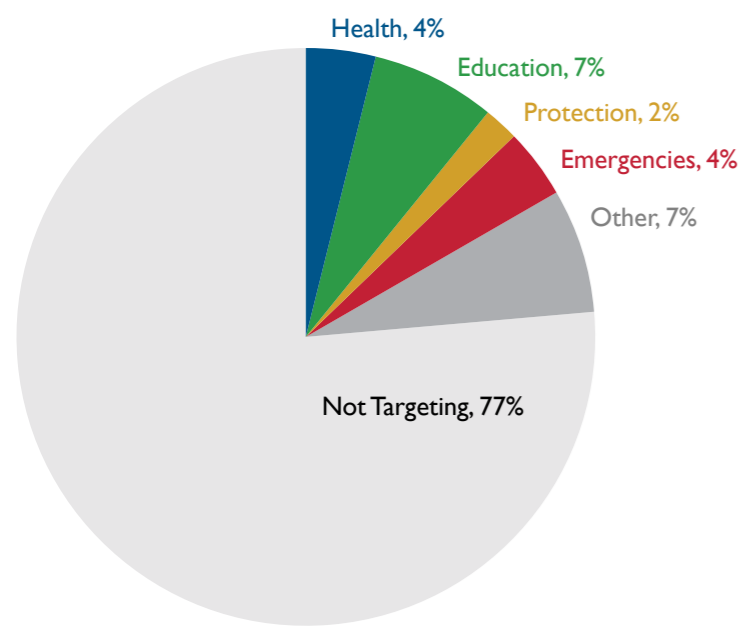


Table 2: Child-related references in Australia's key aid policies

| Policy Document | References to children | References to women | References to infrastructure |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Partnerships for Recovery | 7 | 13 | 10 |
| Foreign Policy White Paper | 13 | 22 | 54 |
| Aid for Trade | 4 | 35 | 40 |
| Climate Change Action | 6 | 24 | 25 |
| Development for All | 18 | 28 | 19 |
| Effective Governance | 3 | 18 | 3 |
| Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment | 54 | 357 | 4 |

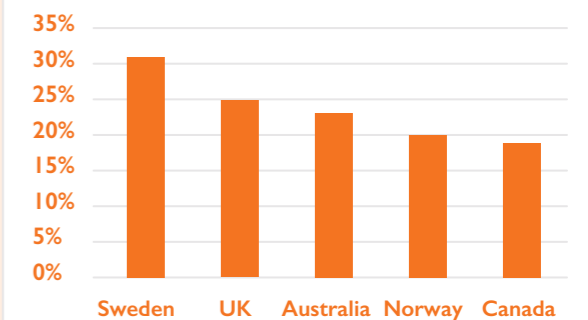
Internationally, Sweden and the UK top the class

Sweden invests the most of its aid in children, but child-focused investments still only comprise 31% of the country's aid budget. The UK targets 25% of its aid spend on children, followed by Australia (23%), Norway (20%) and Canada (19%). Australia's proportional investment of aid in children is therefore roughly comparable to that of the countries in our assessment. But there is an opportunity for Australia to show leadership in pioneering what a 'next generation' aid program could look like.

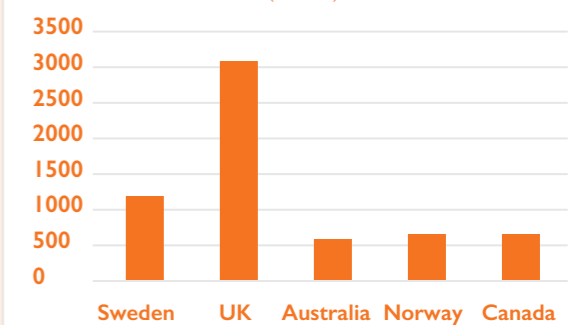
In absolute terms, Australia's aid program is the least generous out of the five countries assessed when it comes to investing in children, contributing half of Sweden's aid investment in children (US\$1.2 billion) and a fifth of the UK's spend on children (US\$3.1 billion). This reflects the size of Australia's aid program, which is the smallest of the five countries.

This analysis is a snapshot in time and may change as a result of several significant policy shifts. The COVID-19 pandemic is transforming the global donor landscape. Further, as of January 2020, the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been fully embedded into Swedish law. This means an even greater focus on children and their rights is likely in both Sweden's future domestic and international policies. Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy, adopted in 2017, includes a focus on a range of significant child wellbeing issues across health, education and protection. It will be important to monitor the impact on child-focused aid investments over time as this policy is implemented. Finally, the United Kingdom is one of the largest ODA donors globally.

Child-focused aid investments in 2018
(% of aid education budget)



Child-focused aid investments in 2018
(\$USm)



Australia's aid investments in children: Education



SECTOR GRADE:

C

KEY FINDINGS:

- Australia's aid investments in education are predominantly focused on adult scholarships, not children's education
- Only 23% or US\$90 million of Australia aid spending on education was targeted at children in 2018.
- Australia contributes the second lowest to child education through its aid program out of the five countries assessed.

State of play

If there is one sector that many would expect to be focused on children, it would be education. But Australia's aid investments in education are primarily focused on scholarships for adults rather than increasing access to basic education for children.

Of the US\$440 million of Australian aid that went towards education in 2018, only 23% targeted children. Most of the education spend, more than 52%, was targeted at adults.

Child education presents greater value for money

Investing in a child's education in their own country is far cheaper than sponsoring an adult to study overseas. For example, in 2018-19 Australia invested AU\$290 million sponsoring the tertiary education of 3161 individuals through Australia Awards. By comparison, Australian NGOs invested only AU\$6 million directly into children's education in the same year, but that investment benefitted 112,946 children and young people (more than 35 times the reach of adult scholarships).

As well as stretching further, investment in children's education has more enduring impacts. The education of children lays the foundation for many successful developments along the life continuum and into the future, and it is key to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. As mentioned earlier, many countries in the Indo-Pacific have incredibly low school enrolment and secondary school completion rates. Addressing these challenges in the early years should be the focus of Australia's investments in the region's education. This is even more important in the wake of COVID-19, which has disrupted the education of millions.

Rebalancing Australia's education spend

A modest rebalancing of Australia's education investment - to bring it in line with health and child protection so that 30% is invested in the children - would lead to an increase of US\$44 million. Investment in programs like those Australian NGOs fund could impact the lives of over 800,000 children.

Investing in children's education has long-lasting impact. Jim Kasom / World Vision



Child education in action: Early childhood education helps children achieve life in all its fullness

World Vision helped establish Early Childhood Centres in Timor-Leste. A school readiness test showed around 75% of the children enrolled in the centres were well-prepared to enter primary school, based on their language, problem-solving and motor skills. By contrast, only 35% of another group of children outside of the centre were assessed as ready for primary school. Primary school teacher Antonio Beto da Cruz said: "Children who were enrolled in ECCD classes are doing better than those who weren't and their discipline is better."

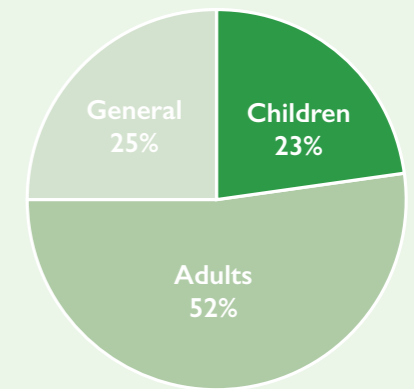
Primary school student Josefo, aged 9, who previously attended classes at the centre, said: "We are learning material quickly at primary school because of what we learnt in pre-school." World Vision's projects show children who have access to early education or pre-school are better equipped to participate and excel in primary and secondary education. This is important, given the low school engagement and completion rates in the Pacific region.

Internationally, Australia lags in prioritising children's education

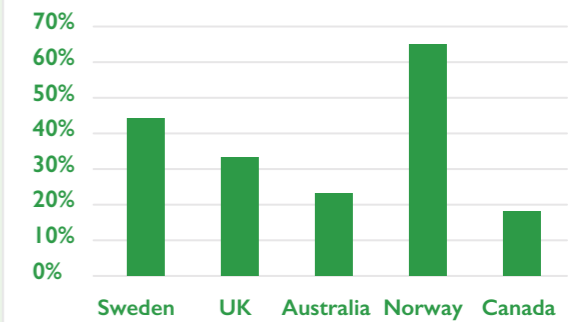
Norway, Sweden and the UK invest a substantially greater proportion of their aid education funding in children compared to Australia. Norway leads the pack in prioritising children's education, with 66% of its aid education spend targeted specifically at children. Sweden invests 45% of education aid in children and the UK 34%, both well above Australia's 23%.

In dollar figures, Australia again lags many of its peers in funding children's education through aid. In 2018, Australia invested \$90 million in children's education in the developing world, dwarfed by the UK's US\$387 million and Norway's US\$245 million.

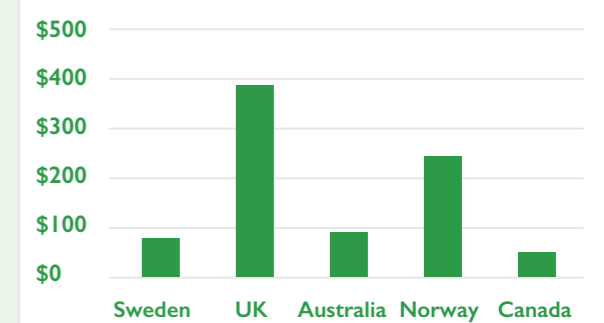
Education - US\$440m



Child-focused education aid in 2018
(% of aid education budget)



Child-focused education aid in 2018
(\$USm)



Australia's aid investments in children: Health



SECTOR GRADE:

C+

KEY FINDINGS:

- Australia invested US\$76 million in child health in 2018 or 31% of its aid spending on health.
- This is the lowest investment in child health in dollar terms and the second lowest in percentage terms out of the five countries assessed.
- Record stunting rates in the Pacific require a greater focus, as do immunisation programs and treatments for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis

State of play

Child health received 31% or US\$76 million of Australia's aid spending on health in 2018. Our qualitative analysis of individual country programs found that, in the case of the Pacific, while there were two objectives focused on health in program plans, not a single outcome was focused on child health. This is concerning as the Pacific is home to a growing young population. Even before the appearance of COVID-19, young people there faced multiple life-threatening and developmental challenges such as stunting, limited access to vaccinations, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malnutrition.

Health was not a priority for Australia's aid program in 2018. That has changed as a result of COVID-19. Australia's new aid policy in response to the pandemic identifies health security as one of its three priority pillars. This is a welcome development after years of declining investments in health security, as the focus of Australia's aid program has shifted towards infrastructure within a static aid budget.³⁰ As health investments increase in the future, it is hoped there will be a gradual corresponding increase in child-related health programming, including in children's physical health and nutrition as well as their mental health.

Strengthening health systems while targeting children

Australia's investments in health generally take a system-strengthening approach. This is important to ensure long-term, sustainable change. However, in the case of child health, and in the absence of tracking improvements either directly or indirectly in particular indicators, it is difficult to link the investments to the desired outcomes. While the new performance assessment framework does utilise the Universal Health Coverage Index and has a specific child immunisation indicator, much more targeted focus on the child health indicators is required to make progress. Robust health systems are important, but so too is directly reaching children in remote and rural areas with life-saving treatments.

WorldVision health workers support mothers, children and communities. Tanya Hisanan / WorldVision



COVID-19 as a health risk multiplier

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to increase child malnutrition and stunting - already a major problem, especially in the Pacific region. Some of the strategies for managing the pandemic, such as social physical distancing and lockdowns, are affecting the supply of nutritious, fresh, and affordable foods, forcing millions of families to rely on nutrient-poor alternatives.³¹ Australia is the largest donor in the region and has a responsibility to combat this child health crisis on our doorstep.

Child health in action: Improving child and maternal health in PNG

From 2014-2017, WorldVision worked with communities in Papua New Guinea to improve the health of more than 24,000 people by increasing access to services for pregnant and lactating women and promoting good nutrition. The PNG Health and Nutrition project provided vital peri-natal care, and children and newborns received important health and nutrition monitoring and support.

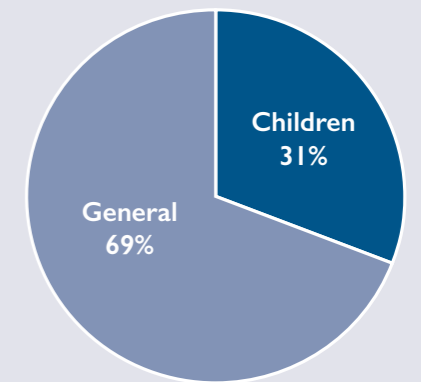
More than 200 people were trained as community health workers and birth attendants. The health workers conducted household visits for immunisation and medical check-ups and led community awareness sessions to improve basic health knowledge on a range of issues, such as newborn immunisation and breastfeeding. Undernutrition and its symptoms (stunting and wasting) declined sharply as a result of the project. Appropriate breastfeeding increased in all locations measured, supporting better health outcomes for children.

Australia trails its aid peers in child health

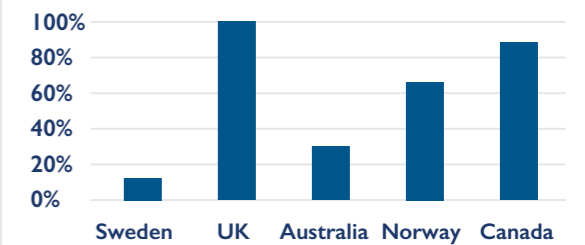
In 2018, only US\$76 million of Australia's aid program was invested in child health. This is the lowest investment in child health out of the five countries assessed. The UK invested six times more than Australia in child health. Canada's contribution to child health was four times that of Australia's and Norway's investment was almost double.

Even in percentage terms, Australia's investment in child health lags others. In 2018, 31% of Australia's aid investments in health were focused on children. By contrast, almost all (99%) of the UK's health aid budget was focused on children. Similarly, 89% of Canada's and 66% of Norway's aid spending on health is targeted at children. This, in part, is in recognition of the critical importance of health in the early years as it shapes health outcomes throughout life.

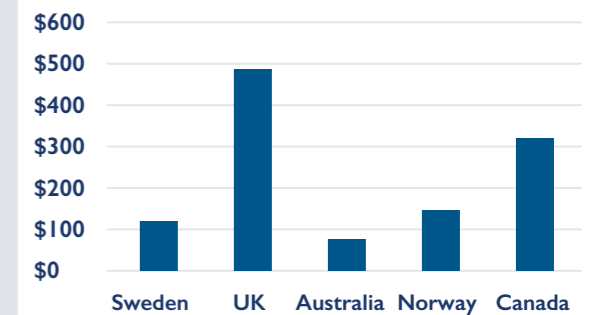
Health - US\$244m



Child-focused health aid investments in 2018
(% of health aid budget)



Child-focused health aid investments in 2018
(\$USm)



Australia's aid investments in children: Protection



World Vision works with children and Sunday schools teaching respectful relationships. Suzy Sainovski/World Vision

SECTOR GRADE:

B-

KEY FINDINGS:

- Protection is the only category of aid funding where the majority (53%) of Australia's investments are targeted at children.
- Australia invested US\$43 million in child protection in 2018, which is the second highest contribution out of the five countries assessed, second only to Sweden (US\$76 million).
- But protection funding is very small, comprising only 3% of Australia's overall aid program.
- The key focus of Australia's protection spend is reducing gender-based violence in the Pacific region, and this should be complemented by a twin focus on ending violence against children.

State of play

Australia has a significant focus on children when it comes to protecting vulnerable people from violence; 53% of Australia's US\$82 million in protection funding is targeted at children. Australia contributed US\$43 million towards child protection in 2018. Children are especially vulnerable in times of hardship and crisis, so this is a welcome focus.

However, funding for protection programming only comprises a small proportion of Australia's aid budget. Even when the funding from the Australian NGO Cooperation Program is included (which is flexible funding that many NGOs have elected to use for child protection), Australia's investment in protection is relatively modest at less than 3% of the total aid budget.

Addressing gender-based violence a key priority

Gender equality - and specifically ending gender-based violence - is the primary focus of the Australian Government's protection investment. A generous portion of these contributions is allocated to the Pacific region.

This thematic and geographic focus is also reflected in Australia's new aid policy, Partnerships for Recovery. The policy includes a commitment to maintain Australia's "strong support and advocacy" for initiatives to address gender-based violence, which will increase as societies are placed under strain. "Violence against women" is specially called out as a priority in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the new results framework for Australia's development program.³² While the continued focus on reducing violence against women is welcome, it is important for Australia to have a specific twin focus on ending violence against children – particularly as the perpetrators may inflict violence on both women and children, and similar approaches are needed to address the problems.

A narrow focus on gender-based violence means little or no attention is paid to violence against children as a distinct group or to violence against boys. This is despite evidence that boys' experience of physical punishment during childhood is a key driver in perpetuating violence later in life.³³ Ending violence against children is essential in breaking the intergenerational chain of family violence.

Time for a twin focus on ending violence against children

Violence against children is at epidemic proportions in the Pacific region. More than 70%, or 4 million children across eight Pacific countries, experience violent discipline at home.³⁴ This includes a staggering 2.8 million (75% of the child population) in PNG alone.³⁵ One in 10 adolescent girls in the region experience sexual violence.³⁶ Since COVID-19, anecdotal evidence and media reports in the region point to an additional increase in violence against children.

Violence against children in the Asia-Pacific region costs \$231 billion (or 2% of regional GDP).³⁷ But it attracts only 0.1% of Australian aid.³⁸ Aid investment to end violence against children does not match the international and regional outcry against the sexual and physical abuse of children. Not responding to this significant social challenge undermines Australia's relationships with the Pacific and its responsiveness to community needs in the region.

Child protection in action: Engaging faith leaders to reduce violence against women and children

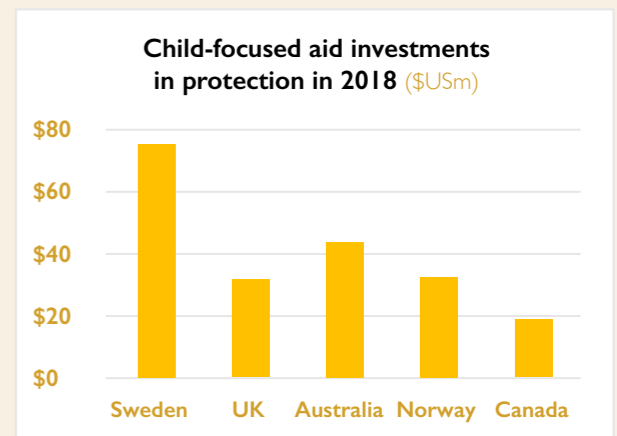
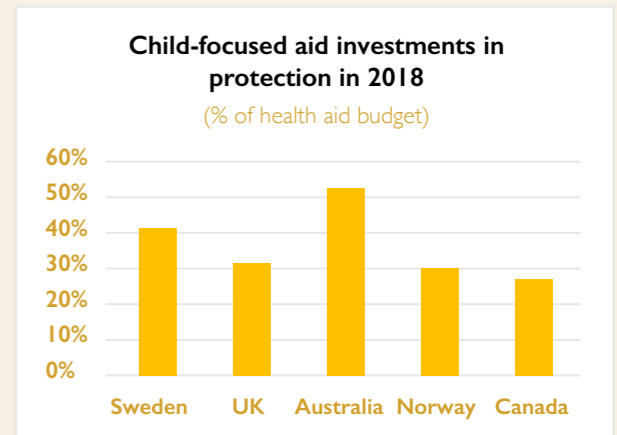
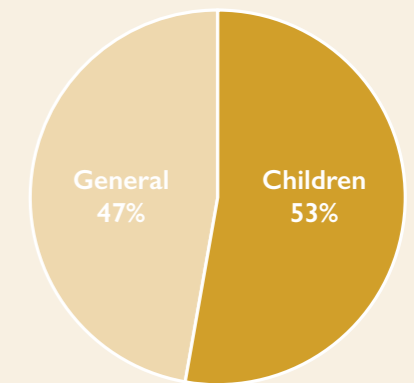
Violence against women and children can be prevented. There are proven models, such as World Vision's Channels of Hope for Gender and Channels of Hope for Child Protection, which work through existing faith-based networks to promote healthy, positive relationships. In Vanuatu, for example, World Vision works with churches and Sunday schools to teach respectful relationships and non-violence through biblical teachings about the value of women and children. Teachers, parents and religious leaders have embraced the program. Joyce is one of the Development Facilitators running the Gudfala Laef Sunday school program. Through songs, kustom stories and interactive play, she teaches children about healthy gender relationships so they grow up to think differently and to be less accepting of violence inside relationships. Between 2014 and 2018, 100 teachers were trained to implement these Sunday school programs in their own congregations, reaching 1500 children.

By international comparisons, Australia is a leader in child protection

Globally, protection is one of the most under-invested areas in aid budgets. All the global diplomatic proclamations about the need to address child labour, child marriage and child abuse and exploitation, does not translate into investment. Even still, Australia invests the second most in child protection out of the five countries assessed. Sweden tops the class with an investment of US\$76 million in child protection in 2018, followed by Australia (US\$43 million), Norway (US\$32 million), the UK (US\$31 million) and Canada (US\$18 million).

Australia is the only country to focus more than half of its protection funding (53%) on children. This is something that should be celebrated and built upon. Sweden invests 41% of its protection funding in children, while the remainder of donor countries hover around the 30% mark.

Protection - US\$82m



Australia's aid investments in children: Emergencies



SECTOR GRADE:

B-

KEY FINDINGS:

- Australia's support to children in emergencies is on the right track but has a long way to go.
- Over half of the world's 26 million refugees are children, yet just a third of Australia's humanitarian assistance directly targets children. This should increase to 50%, with a focus on children in protracted crises.
- Australia's sectoral priorities are sensible but more ambition is needed in the areas of education, protection, food security, and mental health and psychosocial support.
- Australia's total funding in response to emergencies is by far the least generous out of the five countries assessed. A substantive increase is necessary to adequately respond to protracted and future crises in our region and beyond.

More than half of the world's refugees are children and many of those are fleeing violence and the effects of climate change. Md. Shabir Hussain / World Vision



State of play

In 2018, Australia invested US\$300 million to respond to humanitarian emergencies around the world, with 31% of funds (US\$94m) directly targeted at children. The focus was support for people affected by the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh as well as the protracted crises in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring countries that host large refugee populations.

Sectoral focus areas included the promotion of basic health and nutrition, sexual and reproductive health, education as well as protection from gender-based violence. Investments in children relied heavily on partnering with international NGOs, particularly through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership and key United Nations agencies.

Children face the dire consequences of worsening conflict and insecurity

Australia's commitment to provide life-saving assistance, education and protection services in emergencies is welcome. Over the past decade, global humanitarian needs have skyrocketed, primarily as a result of armed conflicts in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. These crises are difficult to resolve and have led to multiple situations of protracted, large-scale displacement. The average humanitarian crisis now lasts more than nine years, and urgent humanitarian needs outpace increasingly sparse ODA resources. The COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating these trends in fragile and conflict settings, triggering unprecedented hardship and acting as a threat multiplier to further violence.

Children and young people bear the brunt of these crises. They make up 40% of the world's 79.5 million forcibly displaced people³⁹ and millions of displaced children are stuck in limbo with no viable prospect for a durable solution. Too many children live in precarious conditions without adequate access to nutritious food, safe drinking water and sanitation. Many children lack access to schools and alternative forms of learning, experience deep psychosocial distress (including trauma, anxiety and depression), and face protection risks (including "survival" sex, child marriage and labour as forms of income generation during economic hardship). Services and treatment to address these issues are not available in sufficient quantity and quality. The damage of this is far-reaching and will bear heavily on the future of entire world regions.

Prioritising need and linking approaches to build resilience

In terms of geographic focus, it is worth stressing that Australia has a role to play in protracted crisis settings beyond the Asia-Pacific, including those in the Middle East and Central, East and West Africa. Humanitarian assistance is about supporting people in acute distress based on need, in line with Humanitarian Principles and Good Practice Humanitarian Donorship. Australia's comprehensive efforts (for example in response to the Rohingya crisis) should be replicated in crisis settings elsewhere.

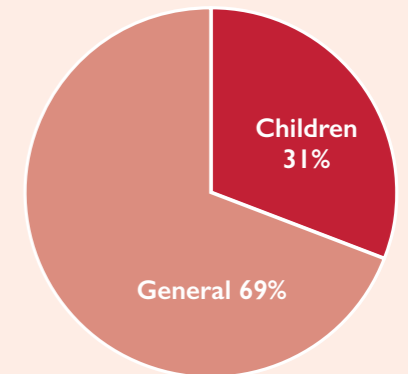
Further, it is critical to help address tensions before they escalate into conflict to prevent their devastating impacts on children and their families. More responsibility should be shared for advancing peacebuilding measures and strengthening community resilience in contexts of recurrent, chronic or protracted crisis around the world. Australia is well placed to promote a longer-term peace and resilience agenda in fragile settings, aligned with commitments under the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Preventing a generation of children lost to conflict

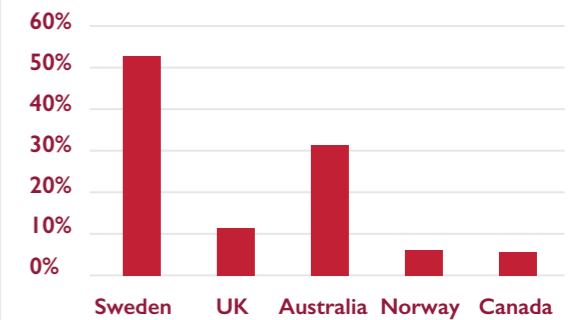
Australia's policy priorities in emergencies are sensible but total humanitarian funding, as well as proportional funding for children and adolescents, should be drastically expanded. Compared to other donors, Australia's total contribution of US\$300 million is by far the least generous; the UK invests seven times as much (US\$2.1 billion) in emergencies, Sweden three times as much (US\$899 million), Canada and Norway more than twice (US\$766 and US\$704 million). However, Australia's targeted investment in children in proportion to total emergency funding (31%) ranks second, trailing only Sweden (53%). In many performance benchmarks, girls and boys were named as beneficiaries but the lack of age-disaggregated data makes it difficult to understand the impact of investments beyond those exclusively focused on children (for example, primary education or child-friendly spaces).

Noting the extent of the global challenge, it would be reasonable to immediately target 50% of all humanitarian funding directly at children and adolescents (up from 31% in 2018), with at least half of these investments deliberately promoting displaced children's access to education, specialised protection services, nutritious food and mental health and psychosocial support. This slight change would increase investment in children in emergencies by US\$56 million. It would strengthen Australia's contribution towards building children's resilience, helping them recover and ultimately lead more productive lives. It would also align with Australia's strategic interests of promoting health security, stability and economic recovery in the wake of COVID-19.

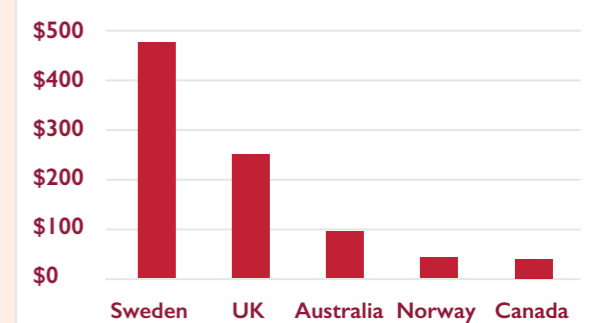
Emergencies - US\$300m



Funding for children in emergencies in 2018
(% of emergency budget)



Funding for children in emergencies in 2018
(\$USm)



The call to action

There is clearly an opportunity for the Australian Government to strengthen its focus on children. This is particularly important in a region where many of the indicators of child wellbeing are at or close to the lowest in the world. If Australia genuinely wants to step up in the Pacific it needs to step up for children.

To enable the dreams and aspirations of the next generation, we urge the Australian Government to make children a greater priority of the aid program today and into the future. It is the right thing to do and it is the smart thing to do.

Children must be intentionally considered in the design, delivery and review of international development and humanitarian programs in order to serve the best interests of children, do no harm, maximise the impact of aid and, ultimately, to eliminate intergenerational poverty and mitigate future crises. There is an opportunity for the Australian Government to provide thought leadership to lead OECD countries into a new way of envisioning aid by creating a 'next generation' aid program that focuses on protecting and empowering children. This is especially important for the Indo-Pacific region where many of the indicators of child wellbeing are at or close to the lowest in the world. It is also essential in the world's protracted crises where we are at risk of losing a generation of children to conflict.

It is therefore recommended that the Australian aid program develop a children's strategy with child-specific metrics, targets and benchmarks to track investments made for children across education, physical and mental health, protection and emergencies. A Child Rights Unit should be established to guide and drive this work, to raise its profile and to hold both the aid program and its service delivery partners accountable to protecting and empowering vulnerable children. This is the type of aid program that children deserve.

OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATION FOR A 'NEXT GENERATION' AID PROGRAM

• **Recommendation 1: Establish a Child Rights Unit within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to be accountable for children's rights and to lead their mainstreaming across the Australian aid program, including:**

- a. Leading the development of a children's strategy for the aid program with child-specific metrics, targets and benchmarks to track the extent to which development and humanitarian programs consider their impact on children.
- b. Development of a child marker to track investment in children across the program
- c. Lead the collection of age disaggregated data across the program
- d. Assess and track the overall wellbeing of children in Australia's priority countries and crisis settings
- e. Develop guidance for best practice in child participation in development
- f. Strengthen synergies between development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding efforts for children and ensure greater coherence and collective impact in fragile contexts.

A Child Rights Unit within DFAT would provide a strong central focal point for supporting the implementation of an aid program that recognises the implications of a child and youth bulge in country and sectoral programming and in shaping country plans, policy and future development trends. The unit would be a leader in policy and practice development, source expert advice and be a clearing house for data collection and analysis. It would also help ensure that children are intentionally considered as a distinct vulnerable group in the design and delivery of aid programs.

The Child Rights Unit would also be responsible for implementing a child marker for tracking investments which directly target children as a model for the OECD Development Assistance Committee to adopt. What is measured is what matters. The OECD has some effective models of markers for important cross-cutting investments such as markers for gender equality, environment, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH). There are also 16 SDG indicators directly focused on children and an additional 30 with a child focused component. Whether an investment is specifically focused on children or more generally on the population, implementation of a marker would ensure that investments are focused on achieving intended critical targets and create more transparent and easily comparable international benchmarks. The gender equality marker is a simple mechanism which tracks whether gender is a principle or significant objective in any development program or activity. A similar model should be adopted for children which could then be utilised for setting and tracking targets.

Strengthening data collection and ensuring that the aid performance assessment framework requires the disaggregation of data (especially by age and gender) should be another important responsibility of the Child Rights Unit. At present, the picture drawn by the Australian aid program is incomplete. Where performance benchmarks measure impacts on both children and adults, there is a blurring of information and little disaggregation of data. This is most evident in programs aimed at violence against women and girls and in emergency responses. Disaggregation of data could begin with the Australian NGO Cooperation Program and Australian Humanitarian Partnership and could be expanded to the whole aid program over time. This would ensure as well as measure that investments designed to target both adults and children do in fact achieve their target.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A 'NEXT GENERATION' AID PROGRAM

Child education

• **Recommendation 2: Rebalance Australia's investment in education so that at least 30% of the education investment is directly targeting children (in line with the health and emergencies portfolio).**

Australia's investment in education is strong. However, it is weighted too much towards adults with a focus on high-cost tertiary education. A rebalancing of this towards approximately a third invested in children's education (up from 25%), a third in overall education system strengthening and a third towards tertiary education has the potential to impact the lives of half a million children and increase the reach and impact of Australia's education investments overseas.

Child health

• **Recommendation 3: Invest in a flagship initiative of AU\$100 million to address child stunting, wasting and malnutrition in the Pacific region.**

Child stunting, wasting and violence against children are the most critical social and child health issues negating the realisation of the SDGs in the Pacific. There needs to be a unified and focused effort across health, nutrition and agriculture to address this intractable issue. Australia should be a leader in this effort both in committing funds and convening other donors to invest in a flagship, multi-sectoral effort, drawing on the best research and development practice to make a measurable impact.



Investing in children is the smartest investment a country can make. Klezer Gaspar / World Vision

Child protection

• **Recommendation 4: Safeguard children in the Pacific from violence at this time of increased risk during and after lockdowns by investing AU\$55 million over 3 years in specific programs aimed at ending violence against children.**

We call on the Australian Government to invest AU\$55 million over the next three years in programs to end violence against children in the Pacific and Timor-Leste at this time of increased risk during and after lockdowns. There are proven models, such as World Vision's Channels of Hope for Gender, which are already being funded by DFAT in the Pacific to prevent and reduce violence against women, and that can be scaled across the Pacific to protect children, transform harmful norms and promote positive, equitable and healthy relationships to prevent violence from occurring in the first place.

Children in emergencies

• **Recommendation 5: Invest half of Australia's emergency assistance in the wellbeing of children in protracted crises, with a focus on their education, protection, mental health and food security. Australia's humanitarian efforts must be commensurate with the magnitude of the damage that conflict and displacement inflict on children's lives.**

The plight of children affected by conflict and displacement around the world, now exacerbated by COVID-19, requires the urgent attention of the Australian Government. Without a stronger commitment to their education, protection, food security, mental health and psychosocial wellbeing, an entire generation of children may be lost to conflict, with severe consequences for stability and prosperity around the world. Humanitarian response efforts must be funded accordingly, with a strong focus on child wellbeing and in a way that creates linkages between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts over several years. Noting that more than half of the world's refugees are children, it is appropriate to spend half of Australia's humanitarian assistance on children. They deserve a better future and only a genuine commitment to their wellbeing, protection and empowerment will pave a new path for the world.

Appendix A: Australia's NextGen Aid Report Card

OVERALL GRADE:
B-





Country: Australia

Data Year: 2018

Overall scores

- Quantity of aid investments in children: US\$587 million
- Proportion of aid investments in children: 23%

Subject scores

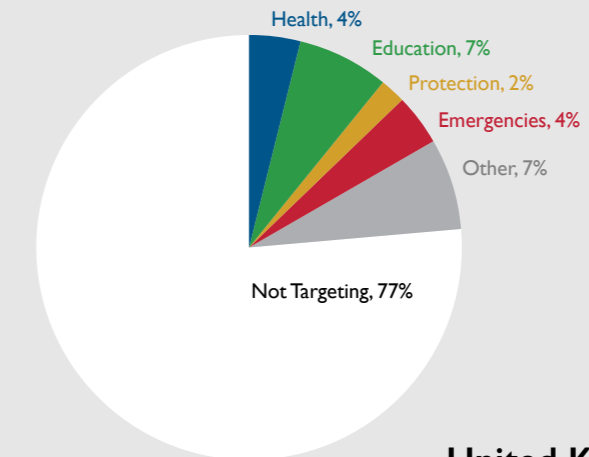
| Sector | Grade | Comments |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Education | C | Australia's aid investments in education are predominantly focused on adult scholarships, not children's education. This can easily be changed through a rebalancing of priorities to focus on the early years of schooling. Australia has a lot to contribute to early childhood, primary and secondary education in its partner countries. |
|  Health | C+ | Australia is unfortunately near the bottom of the class on the subject of child health, which is a missed opportunity given the immense need for child health programming in its immediate region, the Pacific. Australia could become a leader in addressing infant mortality, child malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases in the years ahead. |
|  Protection | B- | Heading in the right direction with lots of potential. Protection is the only category of aid funding where the majority (53%) of Australia's investments are targeted at children. But protection funding is a very small part of Australia's aid program, comprising only 3% of expenditure. This falls short of what is required in a region plagued by violence against children. Suggest complementing Australia's current focus on reducing gender-based violence with a twin focus on ending violence against children. |
|  Emergencies | B- | On the right path but greater effort required. Focus on displaced children's education, protection, food security and mental health needs to be sharpened – they deserve a better future. Over half of the world's 26 million refugees are children, yet just a third of Australia's humanitarian assistance directly targets children. Australia's total funding in response to emergencies is by far the least generous out of the five countries assessed. A substantive increase is necessary to adequately address protracted and future crises in our region and beyond. |

Overall comments

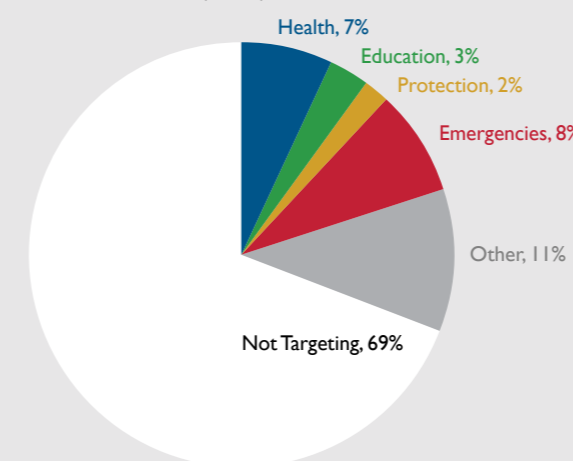
Australia is not achieving its full potential. Australia aspires to be a development partner of choice in the Pacific region and to be part of the Pacific family. To achieve its aspiration, Australia needs to focus on the big issues facing children in the region: low school enrolment, child malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases, and violence against children. Australia should be commended for its focus on children when it comes to protection – with 53% of investments targeted at children – and a similar approach should be applied to other subjects. Australia also needs to pull its weight in response to the world's largest humanitarian crises where children's futures are at risk and more should be done to ensure that children – despite enormous adversity – can lead healthy, happy and productive lives.

Appendix B: Aid Investments in Children By Country

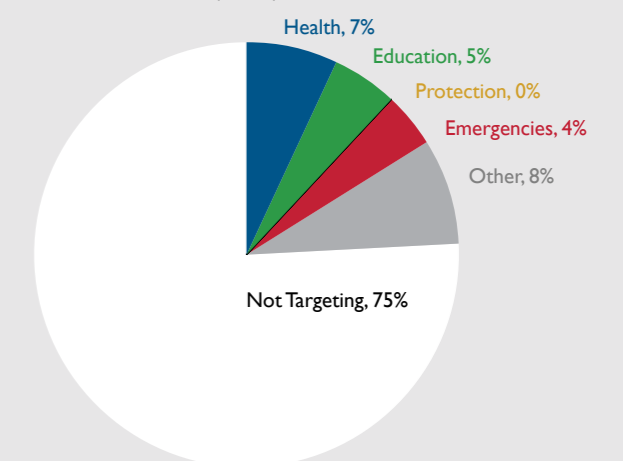
Australia
Proportion of aid budget targeting children (2018)



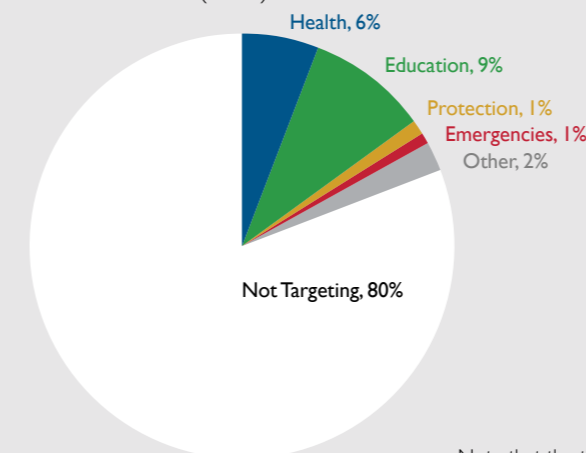
Sweden
Proportion of aid budget targeting children (2018)



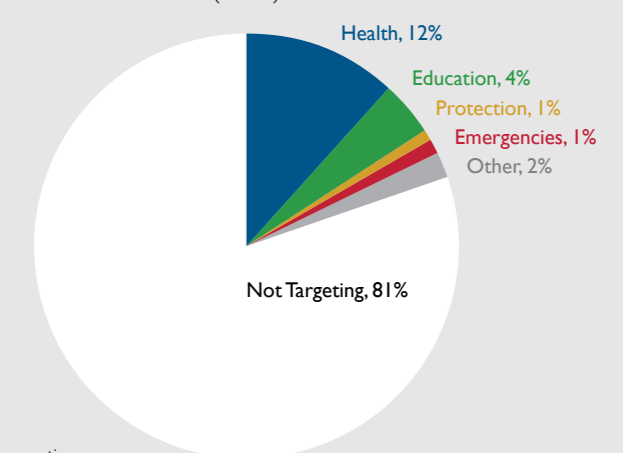
United Kingdom
Proportion of aid budget targeting children (2018)



Norway
Proportion of aid budget targeting children (2018)



Canada
Proportion of aid budget targeting children (2018)



Note that the total aid budget proportions may not total 100% due to rounding.

Appendix C: Methodology

Selection of countries

This report quantifies the proportion of Australian aid that is targeted at children and compares it to the child-focused proportions of aid programs of comparable countries. The comparison countries included in this report are Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway and Canada. These four countries are often looked to as leaders in international development. They are comparable to Australia in that they are also mid-sized advanced countries with a strong track record in international development.

World Vision's Together for Education program in PNG gives these children access to learning and a library.
Nelson Kairi / World Vision



Methodology for quantitative analysis

The methodology for measuring donor investments focused on children is based on the data from the OECD Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS) 2017-2018. It utilises the Purpose Codes and Long Descriptions of investments to track investments which have a focus on children. It also utilises some other attributes and targeted sampling to further refine and validate these allocations. The analysis for Australia, the other bilateral donors and the European Union is based on over 100,000 individual records. Donors submit to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) detailed information about all ODA at an investment level on an annual basis.⁴⁰

In addition, the Australian NGO Cooperation Program annual data is also reviewed using a similar methodology. These allocations are also incorporated into Australia's overall calculations.

Utilising the 'Purpose Codes',⁴¹ the most granular sector information available on investments, all were classified by priority investment areas (education, health, protection and children in emergencies). Investments were analysed at an individual level based on the 'Long Description' which is a detailed description of the investment. This analysis used a detailed list of search terms⁴² based on the likely use of words in the Long Description for investments targeting children. Sampling of both included and excluded investments was used to validate and refine the key search terms. This data along with the Purpose Codes were used to classify investments into the priority investment areas.

Manual sorting was used to allocate investments which did not automatically fit into the priority investment areas using the purpose codes. Any investments which were focused on another investment area (e.g. democratic participation) were left in the 'Other' category, along with broad-based development investments which focused on multiple areas (e.g. health and education). The Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Marker⁴³ and the ChannelReported⁴⁴ fields were both used as an additional filter to assist in classification where they were used by the donor.

The Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)

The ANCP is a unique investment in the Australian aid program which includes a number of NGOs with a child focus. The dataset for the ANCP analysis was the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 Annual Project Performance Report data.⁴⁵

Utilising the same 'Purpose Codes' as the CSR data (in this case known as Primary DAC Code), each project was classified on the same basis. The same text analysis search terms were used however this time they are applied against the 'Project Title'. The 'Sectoral Focus' is used as a backup filter; this was particularly useful in identifying maternal and child health, early childhood development and child protection. The percentage allocations determined by this methodology are averaged over the calendar year (using the two relevant financial years) then used to breakdown the ANCP component within the CRS data which includes one large unallocated investment line for ANCP.

Limitations of the methodology

Allocations of investments to categories were made using 'Purpose Codes' which relies on the correct allocation by the donor. However, the 'Long Descriptions' in some cases do not give much insight into the focus of the investment.

Some of the search terms may pick up extraneous investments. However, the targeted sampling has refined the search terms to avoid common words which pick up investments not targeting children (e.g. 'minor' picking up 'minorities' rather than 'unaccompanied minors' leading to changing to use 'unaccompanied').

Apart from ANCP, allocations were made on the basis of 100% or 0% which means it may be possible that only a small percentage of the investment may be targeting children however all the investment has been allocated.

Some 'Purpose Codes' are more clearly aligned to priority investment areas (e.g. 11220 - Primary education vs 15160 - Human rights). Core contributions to multilateral institutions are pooled with other donors so no attempt has been made to apportion those allocations based on the percentage of a multilateral's budget targeting children.

Methodology for qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis included examining all 2018-19 Annual Program Performance Reports for references to children. Every reference was catalogued against the priority investment areas – education, health, child protection, children in emergencies and other. In some instances, two priorities have been identified (e.g. health and education). They have been also catalogued against the section of the report and the nature of the reference. This is particularly important in distinguishing where references to children are contextual observations (e.g. There are approximately 30 million Indonesian children between 0-17 years old without a birth certificate.⁴⁶) compared with program priorities. The most critical are Objectives, Outcomes and Performance Benchmarks which are included across all programs. In the case of outcomes, sometimes these are referred to as sub-objectives or by some other similar name.

Selected aid program policies and strategies were also reviewed using a similar methodology. However, these follow a lot of different structures and therefore it is more difficult to compare across different policies.

World Vision community advisors support farmers in backyard gardens.
Nelson Kairi / World Vision



Endnotes

1 Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2018, <https://ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/global-mpi-2018/#t3>

2 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for children 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/wca/media/4286/file/HAC2020.pdf>

3 Catherine Wilson, Demanding the Future: Navigating the Pacific's youth bulge, Lowy Institute, Analyses 8 July 2020. <https://www.loyyinstitute.org/publications/demanding-future-navigating-pacific-youth-bulge>

4 Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2018, <https://ophi.org.uk/multidimensional-poverty-index/global-mpi-2018/#t3>

5 UNICEF, Child poverty, 2017 <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-poverty/>

6 The Lancet, Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale, October 2016, https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/child-health/advancing-early-childhood-development-from-science-to-scale-an-executive-summary-for-the-lancet-s-series.pdf?sfvrsn=de76f5d1_4

7 Ibid.

8 Prio, Children Affected by Armed Conflict, 1990-2018, <https://www.prio.org/Publications/Publication/?x=12256>

9 UNICEF Humanitarian Action for children 2020, p5. <https://www.unicef.org/wca/media/4286/file/HAC2020.pdf>

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