



## THE ONE CAMPAIGN'S PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION 2017-2018

### About The ONE Campaign

The ONE Campaign (ONE) is an international campaigning and advocacy organization, co-founded by Bono and supported by more than 7.5 million members around the world taking action to end extreme poverty, hunger and preventable disease. We identify and promote smart development interventions that deliver measurable results on the ground and seek more transparency to combat corruption. The empowerment of women and the nexus of development and security are other key issues that we address.

ONE does not ask for funds from the public or receive government grants. We are funded almost entirely by foundations, individual philanthropists and corporations. ONE has offices across the globe, including in Washington, D.C., London, Berlin, Ottawa, Paris and Johannesburg. We are currently considering opening an office in Australia to work more closely with our 54,000 Australian members, politicians, the Government and the public.

### Recommendations for the 2017-18 Federal Budget

Australia, alongside other global development partners committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda)—comprising both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development — that was agreed in 2015.

ONE is concerned about the large-scale cuts made to Australia's development assistance budget over the last few years which will make it difficult for Australia to meet its international commitments. This financial year, Australian Official Development Assistance (ODA) is expected to account for just 0.23 per cent of national income, the lowest point ever recorded. Australia is drifting further from the global commitment of investing 0.7 per cent of GNI (Gross National Income) to development assistance at a time when other countries such as the United Kingdom and Sweden are meeting this commitment. Continual cuts to the aid program undermine Australia's reputation as a generous nation.

ONE finds it surprising that Australia's Defence White Paper includes a commitment to spend 2 per cent of GNI on defence, which the Government wants to adhere to, while the longstanding 0.7 per cent commitment for ODA is not taken seriously when it is widely regarded that defence, diplomacy and development are inter-related.

In line with the commitment made in Addis Ababa last year at the Financing for Development summit, Australia should also increase aid resources invested in the world's poorest countries, as its contributions fall far short of the LDC target of 0.15–0.20 per cent ODA/GNI. Australia should strive towards giving half of its total aid budget to LDCs instead of less than 30 per cent as is currently the case.

Smart development assistance has made a real difference: Child mortality and extreme poverty have been more than halved since 1990, partly due to scaled up investments for vaccination and

education. In 2014-15 alone, Australian ODA enabled 1.8 million children in the Pacific region to go to school, provided vaccines for 2.8 million children and safe water for over 2.2 million people.

But Australia can and should do more. As Australia's own aid policy notes, an effective aid program will contribute to greater prosperity and poverty reduction and will contribute to efforts to promote security in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **Application of development assistance funding**

The additional funding for the development assistance program should support smart interventions that achieve measurable impact on the ground. It should strengthen the accountability of recipient countries' Governments and help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Increased development assistance could be directed towards the following global policy priorities:

#### **a) Global Education**

**Global Partnership for Education:** Globally, 263 million children, or roughly 18 percent of all children of primary and secondary age, are out of school, making expanded access to quality education for both girls and boys an essential step in the fight to end extreme poverty. In response to this dire situation, the Australian Government should maintain its commitment to, and funding for the Global Partnership for Education. .

**Education for Girls:** The world has reached near parity in primary school enrolment rates for boys and girls. Despite that success, there are still 32 million girls, roughly 10 percent of all girls worldwide of primary-school age who are not enrolled in school. The gender disparity only increases as a girl gets older: 98 million girls, 27% of all girls worldwide are unable to enrol in secondary school, and even more are forced to drop out of secondary school before they finish.

Australia should ensure that learning outcomes in the least developed countries – particularly for girls – are supported.

**Education in Conflict and Refugee Situations:** Australia should support education to become a top-tier priority in emergency, conflict, and refugee funding situations. Education Cannot Wait is a new global fund intended to transform the delivery of education in emergencies. Australia should contribute to the Education Cannot Wait fund to ensure that children living in conflict zones are no longer deprived of years of formative educational opportunities.

#### **b) Technology**

Australia has a role to play in contributing to innovation in a number of areas including renewable energy, data management; in expanding the reach of our assistance in agriculture such as dry-land farming and water resource management.

**Internet Access:** Over half of the world's population – 4 billion people – is still not connected to the internet. Most are already among the poorest people in developing countries, and there is growing evidence of a widening global income gap between those who have internet access and those who don't.

Closing the digital divide will create new economic and development opportunities. Access to the internet can increase government accountability and political participation and can increase economic opportunities. In Brazil, India and China, introducing a 0.5 Mbps broadband connection is estimated to have increased household income by up to USD800 per year.

Australia should work with global development partners to build a roadmap of what it will take to reach SDG #9 (universal access to the internet in Least Developed Countries by 2020) and support reaching that goal.

**c) Global Health**

Globally, over 31 million people are living with HIV/AIDS and over 2 million were newly infected last year alone - a statistic that hasn't changed for three years. In 2015, three people died every minute from Tuberculosis, which has a cure but remains the top infectious disease killer in the world. And over 16,000 children under the age of five died daily from largely preventable and treatable causes.

Australia should continue contributing to the response to enduring global health challenges, such as HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, and to new crises like the Ebola and Zika viruses, while also helping developing countries strengthen their ability to dramatically improve health in their own countries.

Specifically, Australia should continue and increase its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria as well as to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.

**d) Restore and increase aid to Africa**

ONE recognises the Government's policy of directing the majority of aid to the Indo-Pacific area. However, the government's own budget acknowledges that African nations are near the bottom of almost every development and governance indicator; the region is experiencing multiple humanitarian crises and conflicts.

Notwithstanding that Australia states that it 'has a clear national interest in the security, stability and prosperity of Sub-Saharan Africa', bilateral aid to African countries was reduced by 70 per cent in 2015-16 and remained stagnant in the subsequent budget.

Australia should restore funding to Sub-Saharan Africa, focusing on sectors where Australian experience adds value—for example, extractives, agricultural productivity and public policy.

**e) Increased funding for humanitarian crises**

Australia's Humanitarian Program Funding has been stable over the last two years with only a modest increase to the Emergency Fund. Given the increased scope and scale of ongoing and new conflict situations around the world and the frequency of natural disasters in the Indo-Pacific area, we encourage the Government to increase its Humanitarian Program Funding.

**f) Transparency**

Australia must do better in its own practices in delivering aid in a transparent way, if it hopes to lead globally. DFAT must ensure Australia is meeting its commitment to achieve the standards established by the International Aid Transparency Initiative, to which Australia has signed up to, by the end of 2017. At the very least it should develop its own aid data portal.

Developing countries can only achieve equitable and inclusive growth, provide good public services, and help lift their citizens out of poverty if they are able to make the most of their resources. This includes mobilizing domestic resources — primarily tax revenues from citizens and private companies — as well as maximizing the impact of aid from donor governments and other organizations. Yet in most developing countries, there is far too little information available about these revenue streams, how governments spend their resources, and what results they achieve. Australia is well placed to support developing countries, particularly in its region, to improve transparency in revenue collection and allocation through technical advice and collaboration with

other governments. Scope also exists to provide leadership domestically and internationally in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

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