

4th January, 2011

Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness Secretariat

Dear Secretariat,

I write to you regarding the upcoming review of Australian aid effectiveness. Specifically, I request that aid be focussed on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable and poorest people in the world. There are a good number of ways in which this can be achieved, of which here are several.

First, it is imperative that Australia meets its promise to achieve the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. Australia needs to step up its commitment to this objective as the time-frame for achieving these is closing rapidly.

Second, I understand that much of Australia's aid budget is currently swallowed up in payments made to Western consultants to provide assistance in "technical" matters. I believe this is a wasteful use of precious aid money. Ideally, national workers with local knowledge should be employed instead.

Likewise, local communities should be consulted on the projects that are needed in those regions. This strategy will enhance community ownership of projects and further long-term commitment to project success.

Finally, all stakeholders should receive regular updates regarding fund aid activities. This action will help to ensure accountability of the aid program.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Cass