



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Office of Development Effectiveness

Evaluation of the Australian NGO Cooperation Program

A summary of findings and lessons

www.ode.dfat.gov.au

The ANCP: by numbers

- Current budget of \$127million, 3% of ODA
- Funds leveraged well beyond 1:5 ratio
- 50+ Australian NGOs, 2,400 local partners
- 550 activities, in 50 + countries
- Reaching over 15.5 million people
- 40 year history

About the evaluation

- Focus on areas for improvement to the *mechanism*
- Examining both DFAT and NGOs
- Consultative approach
 - reference group and recommendations workshop
- Collaboration between ODE and Coffey

Key findings & recommendations

- The ANCP offers flexibility and extends reach
- Accreditation is valued, and brings many benefits
- The funding model is not sufficiently adaptable
 - Changes to funding policy and structure recommended
- Learning within the program is not yet optimal
 - Enhancement of the MELF and new approaches to learning recommended
- Engagement across DFAT is variable
 - Clarification on the role of DFAT Posts recommended

Some lessons

The ANCP [is] a successful and highly valued program which could usefully inform a number of the Australian government's other development partnerships.

- Partnership trumps directives
- Predictability can be a matter of perception
- Accreditation is linked to professionalism
- Autonomy facilitates innovation