



## Urbanisation and its impacts on development outcomes in DFAT aid program partner countries

### Expert Advisory Group - Call for Expressions of Interest

May 2018

Established in 2009, the Research for Development Impact (RDI) Network (formerly the ACFID University Network) is an Australian based network of practitioners, researchers and evaluators - working in international development. With over 1,600 individuals, the Network has become a key outlet for accessing diverse research expertise, brokering partnerships, convening forums and conferences, as well as supporting ethical research practice among NGOs and academia in Australia. The RDI Network is a partner of and hosted by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

#### 1. Project details:

The RDI Network is convening a voluntary expert advisory group to assist DFAT in understanding urbanisation and its impact on development outcomes in Australian aid program partner countries.

Australia is a strong supporter of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly through the Australian aid program. Urbanisation is on DFAT's agenda by virtue of being captured in the Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities—make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), and it is a concern in the region.

A number of separate approaches to the scope of SDG 11 are already being used by DFAT in the Australian aid program, for example, work on mainstreaming gender, disability and climate change considerations in infrastructure programs in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. A clearer understanding is required on current best practice approaches to urbanisation being taken around the region.

#### 2. Scope and Outputs

The expert advisory group members are to prepare a presentation on a priority sector area (see attachment A) and its relation to urbanisation, focusing on the ASEAN region, the Philippines or Solomon Islands – as DFAT identified priority geographic areas. The experts will be required to present in either Melbourne or Sydney at a workshop to be held during the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> June (exact day to be determined).

The expert advisory group members will also produce a short input (max 3 pages) on their area of expertise shortly after the Melbourne/Sydney workshops, to be later drawn upon for a larger submission to DFAT on urbanisation. Some experts will be asked to also present at a high-level roundtable to be held with DFAT in Canberra in mid-July.

### 3. Selection Criteria

The advisory group expert will be expected to have:

- Demonstrated experience with, or understanding of, international development, including of DFAT and the Australian Aid Program;
- Demonstrated research experience as regards urbanisation in relation to one (or more) of the priority sector areas (Attachment A), with an understanding of or experience with the ASEAN region, and also a preferred understanding of or experience with the Philippines and Solomon Islands;
- Demonstrated writing skills with an ability to write for research and policy audiences;
- Ability to establish good working relationships and consult with a diverse group of stakeholders in the production of research products; and
- Experience in engaging at roundtables and workshops.

### 4. Submission of Expressions of Interest

Please send an EOI to Dr Philippa Smales, Network and Partnerships Manager, at [psmales@acfid.asn.au](mailto:psmales@acfid.asn.au) with:

- A capacity statement on your suitability, experience and availability to undertake the scope of services as described above, responding specifically to the selection criteria (max 1 pages);
- Brief samples or a link to two original samples of your own work; and
- Your availability in Melbourne or Sydney during the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> June, and to potentially travel to Canberra during the week of the 16<sup>th</sup> or the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> July (economy flights to Canberra will be covered by RDI Network).

Questions can be directed to Philippa Smales via email at [psmales@acfid.asn.au](mailto:psmales@acfid.asn.au) or at 02 8123 2225. The RDI Network is hosted within the office of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) in Canberra.

***Submissions are requested no later than COB 25<sup>th</sup> May***

#### Attachment A: Priority Sectors

- Infrastructure, trade facilitation and international competitiveness
- Agriculture and fisheries
- Water
- Effective governance: policies, institutions and functioning economies
- Education
- Health
- Building resilience: humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection
- Gender equality and empowering women and girls