

**QUESTION ON NOTICE/ Written**

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**Topic: Rohingya Refugee Crisis: Australian Aid Funding Amounts**

**Senator Lisa Singh**

**Question**

Noting the Australian National University's Policy Development Centre reports that Australia's foreign aid to Myanmar and Bangladesh has decreased from approximately \$70.1 million to each country in 2014-15 to \$42.1 million to each country budgeted for 2017-18:

- (1) Are these figures correct?
- (2) If yes, what impact has this reduction in funding had on the delivery of aid to the region?
- (3) Does the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have a breakdown of how much Overseas Development Assistance expenditure was spent on programmes that directly or indirectly assist children?
- (4) If so, what is the total amount of expenditure for the financial year 2017-18 and break down across sectors and programmes?
- (5) What is the planned expenditure for Overseas Development Assistance in the 2018-19 Budget and what percentage of this Overseas Development Assistance will be spent on child-related programmes?"

**Answer**

- (1) In 2014-15 Australia provided a total of \$93.2 million ODA to Bangladesh (including \$72.1 million in bilateral ODA administered by DFAT). In 2017-18 it is estimated that Australia will provide \$57.9 million in total ODA to Bangladesh (including \$42.1 million in bilateral ODA).

In 2014-15 Australia provided a total of \$99.1 million in ODA to Myanmar (including \$73 million in bilateral ODA). In 2017-18 it is estimated that Australia will provide \$66.4 million total ODA to Myanmar (including \$42.1 million in bilateral ODA).

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Between September 2017 and January 2018 an additional \$31.5 million was provided for humanitarian support in Bangladesh and Myanmar in response to the Rohingya crisis.

- (2) The change in bilateral aid funding from 2014-15 to 2017-18 has been accompanied by a consolidation of investments in line with Aid Investment Plans and Bangladesh and Myanmar's own development trajectories.

In Bangladesh, the focus of our bilateral ODA support is on education, social protection, and humanitarian support.

In Myanmar, the focus is on enhancing human development, promoting peace and stability (including humanitarian assistance), and promoting inclusive economic growth and government management.

- (3) All our current programs in Bangladesh and in Myanmar directly or indirectly benefit children. In Bangladesh, our strategic partnerships in education, social protection and humanitarian assistance include support for children.

In Myanmar, our programs in education and child protection and our humanitarian assistance have direct benefits for children, while our support for peace and stability, inclusive economic growth and government management offer indirect benefits for children.

In 2017-18, Australia has funded a number of programs in Myanmar that directly benefit children. Major programs include: the Decentralising Funding to Schools Project (\$10 million); the Myanmar Education Consortium (\$2 million); and the UNICEF Child Protection Program (\$1 million).

- (4) Estimated expenditure outcome in Bangladesh by sector, based on total aid allocations in the May 2017 budget for 2017-18 will be:

- Education - \$28.5 million
- Health - \$11.6 million
- Building Resilience - \$9.5 million
- Infrastructure & Trade - \$4 million
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Water - \$2.7 million
- Effective Governance - \$1.4 million
- General development Support - \$0.1 million

Estimated expenditure outcome in Myanmar by sector, based on total aid allocations in the May 2017 budget for 2017-18 will be:

- Education - \$21.9 million
- Health - \$3.4 million
- Building Resilience - \$17.8 million
- Infrastructure & Trade - \$8.9 million
- Agriculture, Fisheries and Water - \$2.1 million
- Effective Governance - \$8.2 million

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General development Support - \$6.1 million

Year to date expenditure will not be available until after the end of the financial year. Revised expenditure outcome figures will be released at the May budget. The figures above for both Bangladesh and Myanmar exclude additional humanitarian funding provided since August 2017 for the Rohingya crisis.

- (5) Expenditure in the 2018-19 budget will be subject to the outcomes of the May 2018 budget process.