



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

5 June 2015

Libby Rogerson IBVM
Social Justice Committee
PO Box 259
ROSEBERY NSW 1445

Dear Sister Rogerson

Thank you for your letter of 15 May 2015 regarding the Australian Government's aid budget. I am replying on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP.

The Australian Government will provide an estimated \$4 billion in total Official Development Assistance in 2015-16, making us approximately the 13th largest donor in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The aid program will continue to focus on the Indo-Pacific region and will continue the Government's commitment to development in the Pacific. The Government will establish a \$50 million competitive gender equality fund to strengthen gender equality and women's economic empowerment in our region. Australia will also continue to make a strong contribution to global humanitarian and disaster relief efforts, providing \$120 million in 2015-16. More recently, the Minister for Foreign Affairs announced an additional \$6 million in humanitarian assistance to Burma, to help improve security and livelihoods for vulnerable communities in Rakhine state.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that appropriate funding flows to the most effective programs, and will continue to focus on priorities outlined in the aid policy – *Australian aid: Promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability*.

Further information on the 2015-16 aid budget, including allocations to country, regional and global programs, is available on the Department's website at www.dfat.gov.au/aid.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sridhar Ayyalaraju', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sridhar Ayyalaraju
Assistant Secretary
Budget Branch