

AIDN's Better Giving Framework

A set of guiding principles for international philanthropy.

Edition 2, October 2025

Image taken by [Ian Macharia](#) in Kenya on [Unsplash](#)



Introduction

The Australian International Development Network's (AIDN) primary purpose is to advocate for “more” and “better” international giving and investing from Australians.

Acting as a neutral and connective film across the Australian international development sector, we encourage collaboration, highlight the inspiring and urgent work being done in the sector, and create an environment for the exploration of what “more” and “better” giving and investing means today. We do this through coordinating, encouraging and facilitating initiatives between philanthropists, investors, “doers”, NGOs, the private sector, corporate and government - ultimately leading to greater international engagement from Australians.

Since launching in 2018, AIDN has hosted 40+ webinars and events, led four international Insight Tours, organically grown our subscriber base to 2000+, amassed over 6500 LinkedIn followers, released 40+ episodes of Philanthropod, published 50+ thought leadership pieces on “The AIDN Beat”, contributed 10 policy submissions, and catalysed significant funds through The Funding Network (TFN) events and by connecting funders and NFPs across our network.

Together, these events, podcasts, policy submissions and thought leadership pieces mean that AIDN has a solid, yet continuously growing, database on international philanthropy, investing and development.

In order to leverage this unique database, at the end of 2024, AIDN launched our Better Giving Framework project. In PHASE 1 of the project, AIDN analysed and compiled our database to produce our *draft Better Giving Framework* - a document that shares what we believe, and what our network has helped us to understand, are the key principles that underpin “better” giving and investing in today's international development sector.

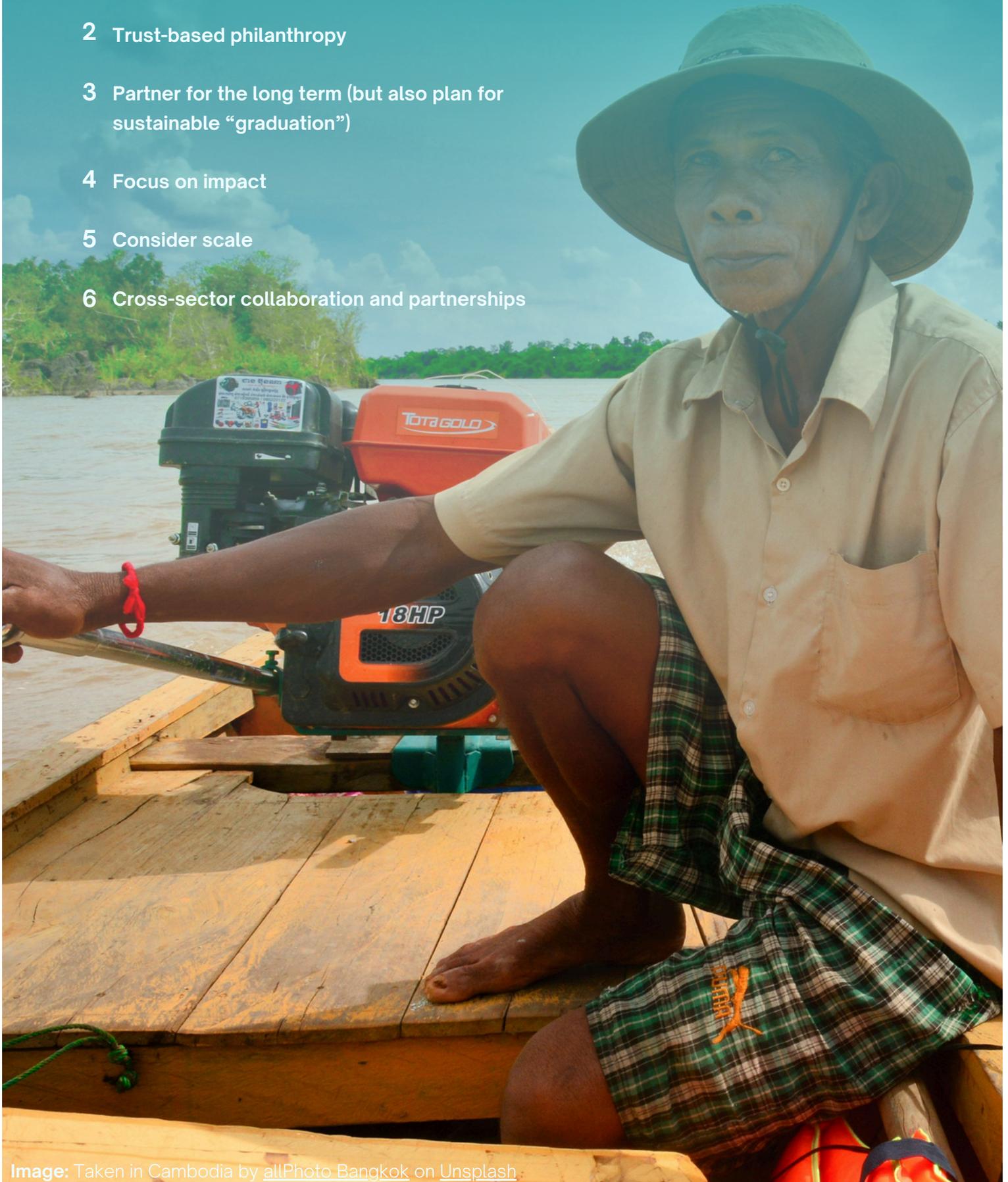
In January 2025, AIDN launched PHASE 2 of our Better Giving Framework project. This included:

- Sharing our draft Better Giving Framework with our network;
- Hosting three, interactive Better Giving Framework webinars with expert panelists across May - April 2025; and
- Sharing an interactive survey alongside our draft Better Giving Framework so that our network had a further opportunity to inform the key principles within the Framework.

In PHASE 3, we reviewed the insights gathered through the webinar series and survey and adapted the Better Giving Framework accordingly. The key changes we made to the Better Giving Framework are outlined in the [Appendix](#). **In this document, we are pleased to release Edition #2 of the “Better Giving Framework” to our network (as at October 2025).**

The Guiding Principles:

- 1 “Those closest to the problem, have the best solutions”: investing in local leadership
- 2 Trust-based philanthropy
- 3 Partner for the long term (but also plan for sustainable “graduation”)
- 4 Focus on impact
- 5 Consider scale
- 6 Cross-sector collaboration and partnerships



Better Giving Framework - Guiding Principle #1

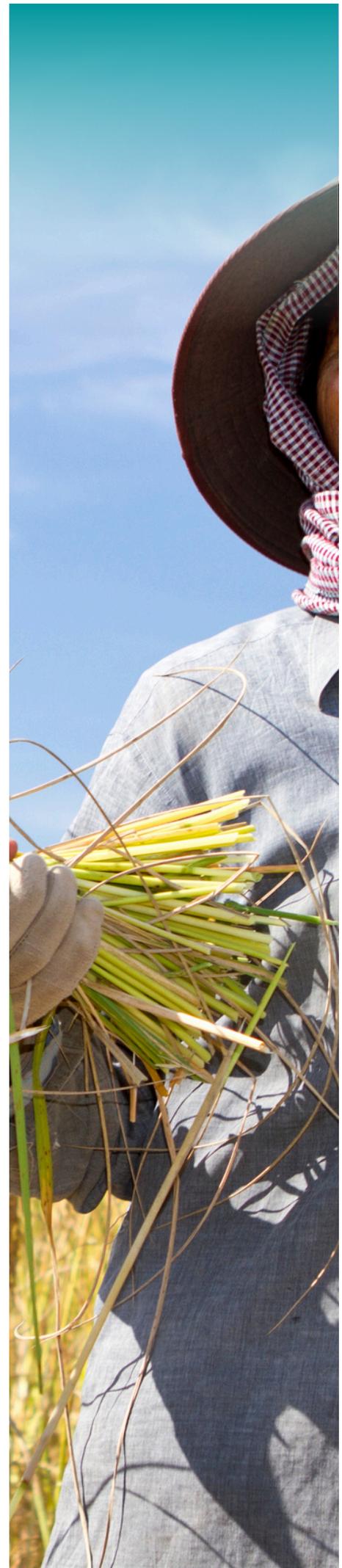
“Those closest to the problem, have the best solutions”: investing in local leadership

For too long it has been shown that external or foreign decision making, underpinned by unequal power structures between actors in the “Global North” and “Global South”, has not led to appropriate solutions or sustainable outcomes in international development. It has also been shown that the majority of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and philanthropic funding continues to go to international NGOs (INGOs) as opposed to grass-roots organisations.

On the other hand, time and time again, AIDN’s network has confirmed a simple but powerful Guiding Principle: “those closest to the problem, have the best solutions”. This ethos rings particularly true in international development because the impact or outcome of development programs can vary significantly between suburb to suburb, town to town, let alone across borders. In this context, processes of “localisation”, investing in local leadership, or giving local communities more agency in addressing their own issues has become a formative concept in today’s international development and philanthropy sector.

Inherently related to other key development concepts such as “decolonising development” and “trust-based philanthropy”, at its core, investing in local leadership is about ensuring the most appropriate, sustainable and impactful solutions, rebalancing power and democratising decision-making. Whilst being realistic about the fact that there are complex challenges to overcome in the international settings where we work, localisation is about recognising the value of local knowledge and expertise to identify gaps and highlight solutions to these challenges. No matter where you are in the world, local actors have a more nuanced and appropriate understanding of their communities, needs and socio-political context.

By leveraging knowledge based on lived experience, localisation is about developing more relevant, effective, and sustainable solutions. Organisations such as Dandelion Africa and Pivot have empowered local leaders to design and manage health, education, and economic programs tailored to their communities' needs.





Better Giving Framework - Guiding Principle #1

That said, it is important to note that localisation does not mean that there is no role for the funder or external actors at all, or that all or perfect solutions exist within communities. Like with all sectors, there can still be merit in sharing external views or expertise from other organisations or international actors - if it is done through a process of collaboration, and resource, technical, capacity or funding gaps are identified and wanted by local actors.

For example, an important step in igniting processes of localisation is working with local leaders to identify which areas can be localised and which areas may require further technical assistance from external actors and funders, local NGOs or INGOs. If there are no local staff available to undertake monitoring and evaluation requirements (especially those required by the funder), then this would be an opportunity for the funder to share external expertise or appropriate capacity building or training for local staff.

For more resources on localisation and local leadership:



[“AIDN’s Better Giving Framework Webinar #1: Local leadership and trust-based philanthropy”](#) featuring [Evelyn Omala](#), [Clay O’Brien](#), [Professor Stephen Howes](#) and [Doris King](#).



[“Seeding by Ceding”](#) by MacKenzie Scott for Medium 2021



[“Localisation: a paradigm shift towards local leadership in the Global South”](#) by Deborah Mowesley for Civicus 2023;



[“Rethinking localisation - Beyond the illusion”](#) by Tara Winkler for The AIDN Beat. 2025



[“Philanthropy’s role in realising the localisation agenda”](#) - webinar from the Council on Foundations 2022



[Unlearning the “Master’s Tools”: Can international development be decolonised?”](#) by Ryan Sutherland for Yale Journal of International Affairs 2023



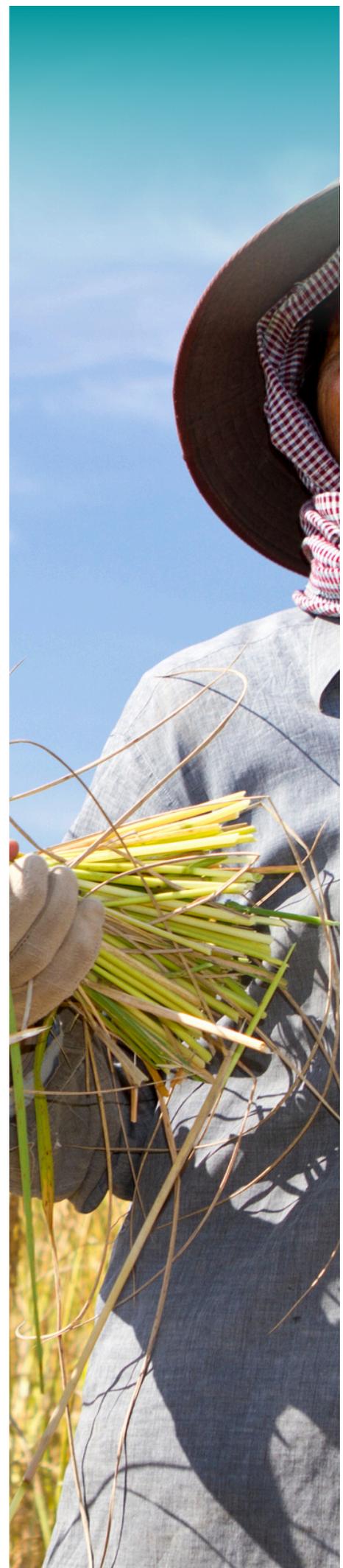
[Dear INGOs, localisation needs local leaders, not boxes ticked”](#) by Rita Panicker and Amanda Griffith for Devex 2024



[Evelyn Omala on building trust, funding local leaders and creating lasting impact”](#) - AIDN’s Philanthropod 2022 with Evelyn Omala - Grassroots Portfolio Manager at [Partners for Equity](#).



[Life in Madagascar, re-orientating the power balance back to the community, and walking in the steps of Paul Farmer to achieve health equity.”](#) - AIDN’s Philanthropod 2023 with Tara Loyd - Executive Director of [PIVOT](#)





For conservation efforts to move forward we must center Indigenous voices and take a human rights-centric approach” by Mahum Qazi (Project Expedite Justice) for The AIDN Beat 2024



“DFAT’s new disability equity and rights strategy: an opportunity to shift the dial” by Jane Edge (CBM Australia) for The AIDN Beat 2023



“The Sidekick Manifesto - A Blue Collar Professor Project” 2025

Better Giving Framework - Guiding Principle #2

Trust-based philanthropy

Despite the enormity and urgency of the issues facing our world in 2025, AIDN has seen that trust remains a significant obstacle to a sustained flow of giving from Australians to overseas causes. AIDN regularly encounters the same questions including ‘How do I know if my money will get there? How do I know if my money will be spent prudently? Who can I trust?’ In our experience, this lack of trust is often fueled by the physical gap between Australians and overseas markets, in addition to knowledge gaps surrounding the local political, economic, or social dynamics of overseas organisations.

To assuage these concerns, AIDN regularly highlights numerous resources to evaluate the effectiveness of charities, such as the Australian Charity and Not-for-Profit Commission’s [charity register](#), and AIDN’s own “[Case for Global Giving](#)”. We’ve further provided tips on how to start your funding journey by networking with other Australian funders and how to build trust with NGOs and local leaders - including through site visits, research or simply reaching out to community leaders.

However, what many people may not realise is that trust in philanthropy goes well beyond the trust required for the funder to make the first, initial grant. Instead, AIDN goes further and actively encourages “[trust-based philanthropy](#)” - which means shifting power imbalances and trusting local leaders to form, lead and manage their own appropriate solutions to the issues they face.

Underpinned by Guiding Principle #1 (“those closest to the issues have the best solutions”), an important way to demonstrate trust-based philanthropy is through unrestricted grants or a shift away from project-based grant making (in proposals, actual grants, and reporting). Unrestricted or non-project based grants are grants with less red tape or reporting requirements for the program implementors, and give more flexibility in how the grant is spent. A regular concern flagged by international development organisations is that they are often required to deal with numerous, discrete forms of reporting from multiple funders at once, and yet there is often an aversion from funders to fund the mechanisms to capture this impact.

In 2023, the [Center for Effective Philanthropy](#) explored the impact of large, unrestricted grants on nonprofits over five years. In a context where the idea of unrestricted grants still feel ‘risky’, they found that unrestricted ‘funds created space for leaders to lead, built morale within the organisation and allowed for re-granting or other forms of collaboration’.





Better Giving Framework - Guiding Principle #2

Trust-based philanthropy can also mean trusting organisations to know what type of funding best suits their organisation - whether it be unrestricted grants, impact investment or another form of funding. Trust-based philanthropy allows organisations to be creative, agile and to respond to the complex issues they are striving to challenge, and scale where appropriate.

That said, it should also be noted that this trust does not emerge overnight nor is it only one way. Instead, mutual trust is often built over time, through experimenting with successive grant cycles, or can be built by networking or capitalising on the resources of other funders. For example, funders sharing their own due diligence processes, their experiences or learning more about organisations' previous work to obtain accreditations, such as DFAT's accreditation process. Face to face interaction and visiting programs is also at the heart of trust-based philanthropy.

For more resources on trust-based philanthropy:



[“AIDN’s Better Giving Framework Webinar #1: Local leadership and trust-based philanthropy”](#) featuring Evelyn Omala, Clay O’Brien, Professor Stephen Howes and Doris King.



[“The rise of trust-based philanthropy”](#) by Shaady Salehi for [Stanford Social Innovation Review 2024](#)



[“Trust-based philanthropy summer learning series”](#) - webinar series from the [trust-based philanthropy project 2021](#)



[“Leaving it to trust”](#) by Pamala Wiekping for [Alliance Magazine 2021](#)



[“The impact of large, unrestricted grants on nonprofits: A five-year view”](#) by Kathleen Fleming, Anthony Michael Abril and Jeff Bradach for [The Center for Effective Philanthropy 2023](#)



[“Emerging impacts: The effects of MacKenzie Scott’s large, unrestricted gifts”](#) from [Center for Effective Philanthropy 2023](#)



[“Unearthing and investing in African change-makers”](#) - AIDN’s [Philanthropod 2024](#) with Andy Bryant, Executive Director at [Segal Family Foundation](#)



[“The case for global giving”](#) [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#) by Mark Cubit, Emily Umbers and Hannah McNicol for [The AIDN Beat 2023](#)



[“Johanna de Burca on the fire in her belly, stories of change and trust-based philanthropy”](#) - AIDN’s [Philanthropod 2022](#) with Johanna Peek, co-founder and CEO of [Just Peoples](#)



[“The Ripple Foundation’s guiding philosophy and their ‘people first’ approach to philanthropy.”](#) - AIDN’s [Philanthropod 2022](#) with Angus Grinham - co-founder of [The Ripple Foundation](#)



Better Giving Framework - Guiding Principle #3

Partner for the long term (but also plan for sustainable “graduation”)

At AIDN, committing to longer-term partnerships is another key Guiding Principle that underpins our Better Giving Framework. Whilst still acknowledging the importance of short-term grants, such as for capacity building grants that seek to address immediate technical expertise or needs, committing to long term partnerships means moving away from project-based or transactional funding to longer-term and trusted relationships. Longer-term and trust-based partnerships can also mean contributing more than just a fiscal grant and instead involves introducing grantees to wider professional networks, providing capacity building, organisational support or access to technical expertise.

The benefits of committing to longer-term relationships are also two-way. For example, many funders in AIDN’s network have explained that by committing to longer-term relationships they have been able to watch leaders grow and scale their organisations. For some funders, they have even had the opportunity to observe the moment when an organisation “graduates” or scales beyond the funders’ typical grant making portfolio - such as scaling up to government adoption.

That said, it is also important to realise that the goal is not to create a long term dependency on external or foreign funding. As part of the localisation ethos, funders should also consider how to support the organisations they work with to grow and flourish beyond the financial support of an external or foreign funder. The fable of NGOs or programs ceasing operations when external funding ends has been documented too many times.

Instead, AIDN encourages funders to think about the scale of their impact, how long they intend to partner for and what happens after their funding will stop from the get-go. As the [StopAIDs](#) “successful transition” campaign explains: “ensuring sustainable transitions [after external funding has ended] is the shared responsibility of multiple stakeholders including, governments, funders, technical partners and civil society”. A further example includes [BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative](#) that supports individuals living in extreme poverty by providing a combination of assets, training, and mentorship to “graduate” to self-sufficiency.





For more resources on long-term partnerships and graduation:



“[AIDN’s Better Giving Framework Webinar #3: Partner for the long-term \(but also plan for sustainable “graduation”\)](#) featuring [Andy Bryant](#), [Audette Exel AO](#), [Weh Yeoh](#) and [Gayle Deighton](#).



“[Towards new partnerships - how to improve collaboration with innovators from the Global South](#)” by Benjamin Kumpf and Parnika Jhunjhunwala for International Development Innovation Alliance



“[Maximizing the impact of partnerships for the SDGs: A practical guide to partnership value creation](#)” by UNDESA and The Partnering Initiative 2019



“[The only good development program is one you can leave behind](#)” by Tamar Kosky Lazarus ([IsraAID](#)) for The AIDN Beat 2024



“[Building long-term partnerships with nonprofits to scale impact: lessons from sustained funding relationships](#)” by Susan Olivio and Brad Turner for Philanthropy News Digest 2021



Philanthropod 2023: “[Yevu Clothing: realising the transformative impact of economically empowered women](#)” - AIDN’s Philanthropod with Anna Robertson - founder of [Yevu Clothing](#);



“[Principles of a successful transition from external funding](#)” from StopAIDS 2018



“[Partner graduation - Food for Education](#)” by Partners For Equity 2024



“[Unearthing and investing in African change-makers](#)” - AIDN’s Philanthropod 2024 with Andy Bryant, Executive Director at [Segal Family Foundation](#)



“[Understanding sustainable outcomes in international development: towards a realist evaluation framework](#)” by Simon Feeny, Gill Westthrop and Emma Williams for Journal of International Development 2022

Better Giving Framework - Guiding Principle #4

A focus on impact

AIDN believes that funders should also give with a clear focus on impact and impact measurement from the very start of their giving journey. For Kevin Starr, CEO of the [Mulago Foundation](#): “Impact is observable, knowable change, but more specifically impact is change that would not have happened otherwise”. Starr’s quote is significant not only because it suggests what impact is but why funders should center it as a principle in their giving. For AIDN, a focus on impact in international giving is crucial because it allows both the funder and the partner (or “doer”) to understand how effective or ineffective their interventions are - both in the short and long term. It is also an opportunity to inform continuous learning, improve and foster adaptive practices within the programs themselves, and to provide the evidence for scaling interventions in the future if appropriate. In short, for many funders, a focus on impact is one of the best ways to understand the return on your philanthropic investment.

But how can impact actually be measured? For Starr, impact cannot be achieved unless funders think about mission, metrics, change, attribution and cost before funding, and a shared definition of impact between the funder and the doer is achieved.

For many new funders this might seem like a daunting task. However, over the past two decades, effectively measuring and evaluating impact has become a cornerstone of international development praxis. Aid agencies, INGOs and NGOs have developed considerable expertise in Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and should be thought of as potential collaborators. Similarly, intermediaries, such as [Partners for Equity](#), can be a great way to network, share resources or fund with impact.

There are also numerous resources available to evaluate the effectiveness of charities, de-mystify MEAL and reflect on complexities such as contribution vs attribution, on the next page. Platforms such as [GiveWell](#) or [ChangePath](#) independently assess charities using a range of data and further speak to the ongoing MEAL obligations that regulated charities must adhere to in order to show impact, governance, accountability and sustainability. These resources should empower funders to feel more confident to give.

We also encourage funders to think about how impact is inherently intertwined with other Guiding Principles within this booklet. For example, AIDN has come to learn that rigorous MEAL frameworks should be co-collaborative, led by local leaders but also not overly onerous on organisations or to the detriment of them being able to conduct their vital programmatic work. Funders should also think about “paying what it takes” - i.e funders should not expect an organisation to undertake rigorous MEAL reporting requirements if the funder does not also provide any grants or capacity building to do so.





We also encourage patience and open-mindedness from funders to more diverse and dynamic measures of impact than they may have encountered in other sectors. This is because in international development, indicators, metrics, and measures of impact can vary widely, encompassing everything from the number of vaccines administered, the percentage increase in girls attending school, to shifts in an individual's understanding or engagement with civil rights. These outcomes may be inherently harder to quantify but that does not mean that less impact has been created.

Finally, AIDN also believes that the greatest funder/doinger relationships emerge when funders think purposefully about what type of organisation is most suited to the style and amount of their giving. For example, if an organisation is in an exciting period of scaling up from 5 to 7 million revenue per annum, then a grant of \$50,000 might not align with the impact strategy nor produce as much impact as a funder might hope to see. Instead, if a funder is wanting to see their giving become a more critical part of the impact strategy - then \$50,000 might be more appropriate for an organisation with a revenue of \$1 - 2 million per annum.

For more resources on measuring and evaluating impact:



[“AIDN’s Better Giving Framework Webinar #2: A focus on impact”](#) featuring [Roy Head](#), [Lisa Smyth](#), [Anvesha Khandelwal Punjani](#) and [Soofia Mahmood](#).



[“Don't feed the zombies”](#) by Kevin Starr for [Stanford Social Innovation Review 2023](#)



[“Think before you give: Impact philanthropy vs impulse philanthropy”](#) by Nicola Crosta for [Medium 2017](#)



[“Why should we donate to the most effective charities?”](#) by Luke Freeman for [Giving What We Can 2021](#)



[“Leveraging mass media for social good”](#) - AIDN's Philanthropod with Roy Head - founder of [Development Media International \(DMI\)](#).



[“Moving out of ultra-poverty in rural Uganda”](#) - AIDN's Philanthropod with Shawn Cheung - founder and CEO of [Raising the Village](#)



[“Navigating complexity: the moment that defined how I conduct impact evaluations globally.”](#) by Mattias Nestore ([The Life You Can Save](#)) for [The AIDN Beat 2024](#)



[“Field Catalysts: driving large-scale change through radical collaboration”](#) by Dr Madeleine Ballard (CHIC) for [The AIDN Beat 2024](#)

Better Giving Framework - Guiding Principle #5

Consider scale

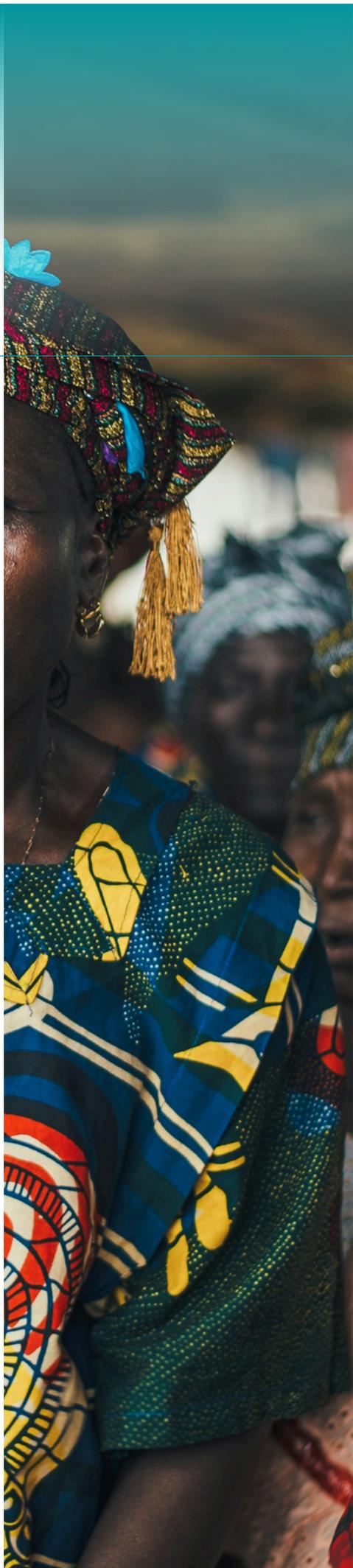
Before giving to or investing in international development programs, AIDN also recommends that funders consider scale or the scalability of a program. Due to the urgency of today's issues including poverty, hunger, education and climate change, many funders argue that we must prioritise investing in scalable solutions.

A scalable solution is one that has the potential to make a big dent in a big social problem or maybe even solve it in its entirety. Take the example of Wawira Nijuru's [Food4Education](#). In Kenya, more than 23 million Kenyan children go to school hungry each day. In 2012, 32 year old Wawira Njiru founded Food4Education and from inception, funders were encouraged to think about the long-term and scalable potential of the organisation. Today, Food4Education supplies meals to 500,000 school children a day and has scaled up to government adoption with [Nairobi County](#).

As will be discussed in Guiding Principle #6, scalable solutions do not create parallel systems, but instead work with, embed within or build the capacity of the existing systems. They also often foster cross-sector collaboration. A further example to demonstrate this process is [Community Health Impact Coalition](#)'s commitment to the mobilisation and professionalisation of Community Health Workers globally. In order to address the enormous access gaps to public health in low-income communities, CHIC seeks to economically empower health workers that are already effectively and appropriately embedded within local systems.

However, it is also important to note that "considering scale" does not only mean looking for programs that can be scaled up. Instead, and as Kevin L Brown explained in his AIDN Philanthropod episode, funders should be aware that not every organisation should or needs to scale. Instead, some organisations create their greatest impact at a certain size. This is often because their programs are nuanced, culturally situated and created to address very specific problems in appropriate ways. For example, a culturally specific center for women who have experienced Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Timor-Leste may not be scalable or transferable to other communities, regions or countries. Nevertheless, this does not diminish the impact of these programs, and instead simply speaks to importance of immediate needs provision and localised models.





For more resources on scaling in international development:



[“Scaling up: What it means and why it matters”](#) by Imago Global Grassroots 2022.



[“Big Enough. Simple Enough. Cheap Enough”](#) by Kevin Starr for The Stanford Social Innovation Review 2019.



[“Reimagining scaling: Reflections, principles, and perspectives on scaling locally-led humanitarian innovations”](#) by Start Network 2025.



[“The business of bold philanthropy”](#) - AIDN’s Philanthropod 2025 with Dave and Kerry Rickards, Founders of DAK Foundation and the DAK International Network.



[“Unlocking growth: Branding, storytelling and the future of fundraising”](#) - AIDN’s Philanthropod 2025 with Kevin L Brown, CEO of Mighty Ally.



[“Education for every girl: How community and data driven approaches are changing the game in India”](#) by Nooreen Dossa for The AIDN Beat 2025.



[“The next opportunity for Australian aid and development? Scalable investments in African education”](#) by Cassandra Treadwell for The AIDN Beat 2024.



[“Stop buying sunshine: The 10% stake every donor should take to ending stunting in Indonesia”](#) by Zack Peterson for The AIDN Beat 2025.

Cross-sector collaboration and partnerships

And finally, AIDN believes that funders should reflect on the worth of cross-sector collaboration when giving or investing in international causes. This approach means considering how international development organisations or programs may engage with all levels of the system - from community-level service delivery, through subnational government structures, to the private sector, to national policies and ODA budget allocations - and how this may ultimately change the impact of a program.

AIDN appreciates that fostering cross-sector collaborations is an ambitious task. There can be power imbalances, funding inequalities and organisations working in different sectors also have different goals and objectives. For some critics, cross-sector collaborations can also dilute the process and mean programs ultimately risk having little immediate impact. Nevertheless, there are several reasons why it is important for funders to take this wider systems view.

First, engaging with other types of funders and/or sectors can add to the overall pool of money going to important causes. A core part of AIDN's mission is to foster discussion on the future of innovative development financing in Australia, including impact investing, blended finance, private-public partnerships or even public-private-philanthropic partnerships. In this context, AIDN welcomed the Australian Government's Development Finance Review in 2023 that included a new focus on blended and climate finance, and the requirement that new development finance investments must incorporate a stronger focus on gender, disability, social inclusion, or First Nations peoples.

Second, cross-sector collaboration brings together diverse mind-sets, skills, frameworks and approaches to create appropriate solutions to complex problems. For example, grassroots organisations often contribute deep local knowledge that informs both program delivery and policy advice. International NGOs, such as UNICEF or Plan International, then connect with these organisations to support scale-up and replication, or foster policy advocacy. Think tanks and government can translate successful community-level initiatives into national policies backed by public funding.



Cross-sector collaboration and partnerships

In fact, this ethos underscored the creation of the Cross Sector Development Partnerships Initiative ([XPSI](#)) in 2020. XPSI provides a platform for establishing new partnerships, identifying projects and bringing together cross-sector stakeholders among Australia's business, government, NGO/NFP, academia/health/medical research and philanthropy/private capital stakeholder sectors to support the SDGs and country development plans. Other examples include the [Village HIVE](#) model in Cambodia or Global Vaccine Distribution ([COVAX](#)) - that brought together governments, NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, and international organisations to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Fourth and finally, cross-sector collaboration puts all forms of giving (including philanthropic, private or ODA) into wider political, economic and cultural contexts (or a "systems strengthening approach") - which makes it easier to create or understand impact. For example, when funders understand philanthropic giving (such as: funding women's access to reproductive health education) as one part of a wider system of funding alongside other sectors (such as: concurrent government funding for women's hospitals), funders may better understand how their grant might have greater impact or is part of wider systemic change in the target community.



For more resources on cross-sector partnerships:



“[AIDN’s Better Giving Framework Webinar #3: Partner for the long-term \(but also plan for sustainable “graduation”\)](#) featuring [Andy Bryant](#), [Audette Exel AO](#), [Weh Yeoh](#) and [Gayle Deighton](#).



“[Cross-sector partnerships: 5 years of lessons from Bangladesh](#)” by [Jessica Carter](#) for [The AIDN Beat 2025](#)



“[The role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs](#)” webinar from [Charities Aid Foundation](#) and [UN Sustainable Finance Hub 2023](#)



“[At the intersection: on building trust through cross-sector collaboration between the public, nonprofit, and private sectors](#)” by [Daniel P. Gittermna](#), [Neil Britto](#), [Sonal Shah](#) and [Zia Khan](#) for [Stanford Social Innovation Review 2021](#)



“[The growing role of the private sector in developing co-operation: challenges for global governance](#)” by [Andre de Mello e Souza](#) for [OECD Development Matters](#)



“[The role of public-private-philanthropic partnerships in driving climate and nature transitions](#)” report from [McKinsey Sustainability 2023](#)



“[Achieving the SDGs means investing in MSMEs](#)” by [Cameron Neil](#) ([LendForGood](#)) for [The AIDN Beat 2023](#)



“[Impact Investment in Bangladesh: A new story](#)” by [Nick Goryl](#) and [Lily Van Berkel](#) ([XSPI](#)) for [The AIDN Beat 2024](#)



“[The social activist who learnt lessons in power and capital so she could affect change](#)” - [AIDN’s Philanthropod 2023](#) with [Audette Exel](#), [Founder and CEO of Adara Group](#)



“[Activating potential: catalysing social entrepreneurs to alleviate poverty with D-Prize](#)” - [AIDN’s Philanthropod 2023](#) with [Nick Fusso](#), [co-founder of D-Prize](#)



Appendix: You spoke, we listened

AIDN's primary purpose is to advocate and encourage "more" and "better" international giving and investing from Australians. However, aware that these are evolving terms, throughout our 2025 Better Giving Framework project we actively sought insights from our sector to further inform how we understand the key principles that underpin "better" giving and investing in today's international development sector. We thank our network for providing such detailed insights to improve our Framework.

The key changes that were made in the Better Giving Framework following our iterative process of network engagement were as follows:

1. The addition of a new Giving Principle: "Consider scale".
2. In Giving Principle #1 (local leadership), a recognition that whilst localisation may be the ultimate goal, that there remain ongoing and complex issues in the places where we work. In practice, this means that localisation is unlikely be achieved overnight and there continues to be merit in the sharing of external ideas or expertise - if it is done through a process of collaboration.
3. In Giving Principle #2 (trust-based philanthropy), an acknowledgment that whilst trust-based philanthropy may be the ultimate goal for "better" international giving – that trust does not manifest overnight nor is it a one way relationship. Instead, trust is often built over time through successive grants that start small and eventually grow in size.
4. In Giving Principle #3 (partner for the long-term), an important clarification that there remains a place for short-term or technical grants, alongside long-term grants, especially with regards to technical capacity building or expertise.
5. In Giving Principle #4 (focus on impact), a deeper dive into the idea that measuring impact in international development requires open-mindedness and patience on behalf of funders. This is particularly true when it comes to programs that try to create complex change, such as gender equality, where it may be inherently harder to quantify but is not any less impactful.
6. In Giving Principle #6 (cross-sector collaboration), a broader understanding of the various actors within cross-sector collaborations or systems strengthening approaches, in addition to recognising how cross-sector collaborations must take power imbalances or competing priorities into account.



[Click here to watch our Better Giving Framework Webinar #1: Local leadership and trust-based philanthropy.](#)



[Click here to watch our Better Giving Framework Webinar #2: A focus on impact.](#)



[Click here to watch our Better Giving Framework Webinar #3: Partner for the long term and cross-sector collaborations.](#)

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