



**A collective movement for more and better
international giving & investing from Australians**

2025 in Review



*AIDN acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work.
We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.*

**Poverty, inequity and conflict
remain significant issues in the
Majority World.**

**Yet only ~10c of every Australian philanthropic
dollar goes to international causes.**

Given that philanthropic funding delivers greater returns per person in low-income contexts,

Australian philanthropy has the power to accelerate progress toward a more equitable and resilient world.

**Here's what we did in 2025 to drive more
and better international giving and
investing from Australians...**



Insight Tours

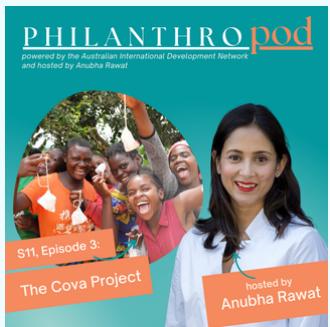
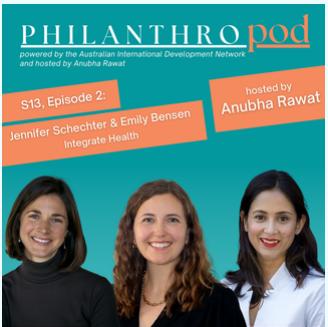
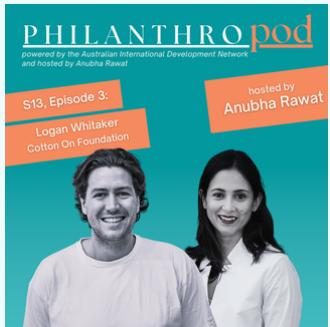
We hosted two Insight Tours – to Cambodia in February, and Malawi and Zimbabwe in July. These journeys with philanthropists allowed us to meet with over 85 development organisations and engage with leaders in the field.





Philanthropod

We highlighted the stories of 9 changemakers on our podcast, hosted by Anubha Rawat. Philanthropod clocked over 11,000 downloads as we reached our 13th season. We also hosted our first Philanthropod Live events in Sydney and Melbourne.





Straight to your inbox

We published 5 editions of The AIDN Beat with 25 guest thought-leadership articles. We also released a further 7 newsletters so that our network was up to date with the latest news, events and opportunities in the sector. This included two special editions on the global aid funding cuts plus a print edition of The Beat.

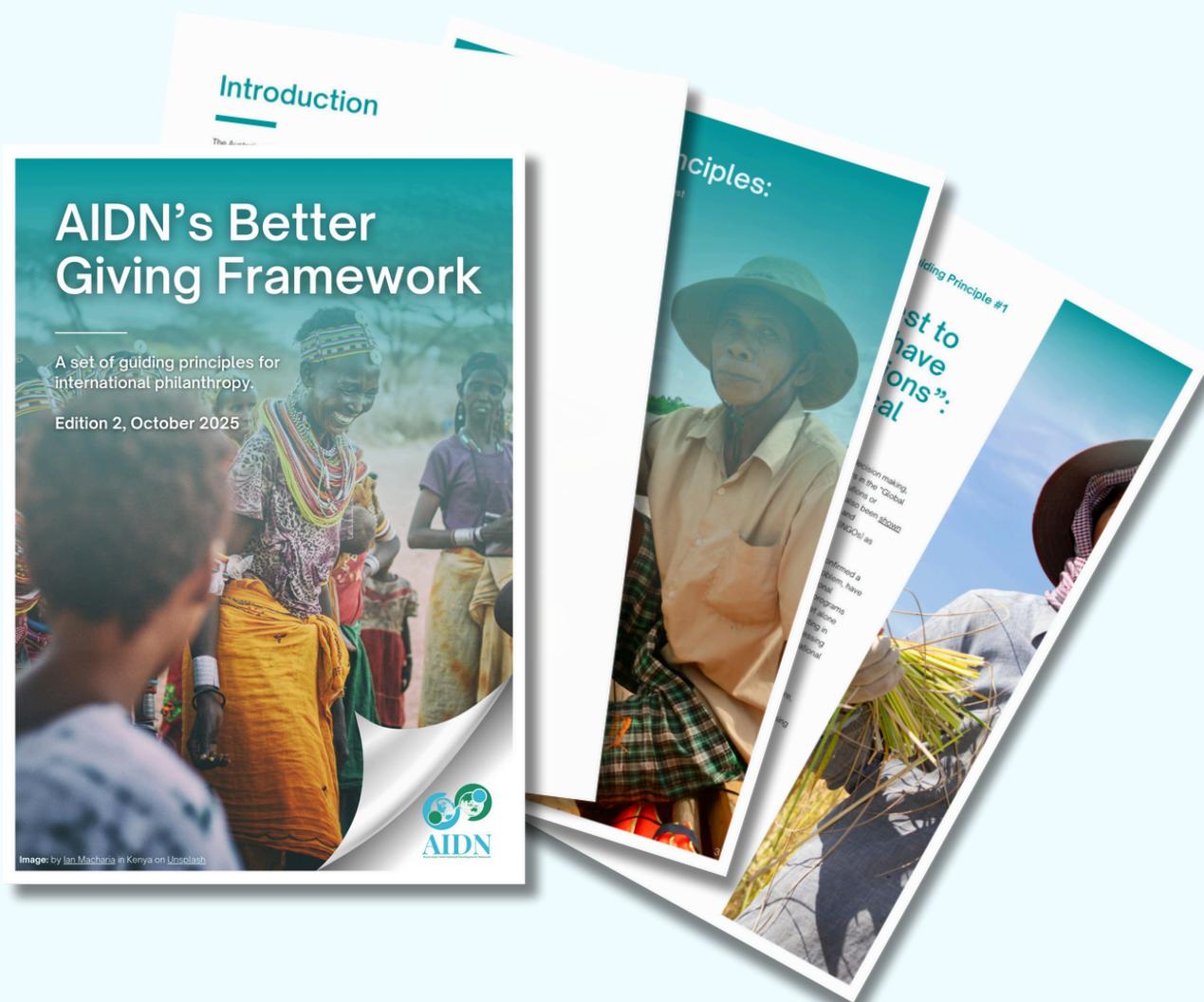
The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the AIDN Beat website at <http://www.aidnetwork.org.au>. The page features a grid of six article cards. The top row includes: '16 SEPTEMBER 2025 Financial inclusion in 2025 – time for a health check.', '9 SEPTEMBER 2025 Rethinking localisation – Beyond the illusion.', and '4 SEPTEMBER 2025 Cross-sector partnerships: 5 years of lessons from Bangladesh.'. The bottom row includes: '1 SEPTEMBER 2025', '13 AUGUST 2025', and '8 AUGUST 2025 Let's talk about consent...'. Each card has a small image, a date, a title, a brief description, and a 'Read more' link.

The image displays three versions of The AIDN Beat publication. The central focus is a digital issue with a teal header and a smiling woman in a purple patterned top. The header reads 'The AIDN Beat' and the subtext says 'A selection of thought-leadership pieces on international philanthropy and development, published on The AIDN Beat since launching in 2023.' To the right is a print edition with a light blue cover featuring a man in a blue t-shirt with 'GAPS' on it. The title on the cover is 'DFAT's new disability equity and rights strategy: An opportunity to shift the dial' by Jane Edge, October, 2022. The left side shows a portion of another digital issue with text about aid funding cuts.



Resources for Givers

We strengthened our support for funders by launching the Better Giving Framework and a new edition of Pathways to Global Giving – practical guides to help Australians navigate international philanthropy. We also developed tailored one-pagers for corporates, philanthropists and government to provide clear, accessible entry points to global giving.





LinkedIn Community

Our LinkedIn community continued to flourish, with more funders and sector leaders joining the conversation. Our followers organically increased by 35% - from 5,050 to 6,822 in 2025 alone. As our main social media platform, LinkedIn has become a dynamic hub where we share insights, highlight partners and connect Australians with opportunities to engage in global giving.

thumb-up icon [Thank you to the Australian International Development Network for your continued support of locally-led organizations. 🙏](#)

thumb-up icon [A big thank you to everyone at Australian International Development Network for your incredible work in encouraging more and better international giving from Australia. Your dedication to fostering global generosity and sharing valuable insights through Philanthropod, roundtables, and The AIDN Beat is truly inspiring.](#)

thumb-up icon [Love these podcasts, and now events...!](#)

Australian International Development Network
6,813 followers
2mo · Edited ·

"In international development, well-intentioned efforts to solve persistent problems, like childhood stunting, often follow a frustrating cycle: a promising pilot emerges, data is collected, short-term successes are documented, and ...more



3 reposts

 Hannah McNicol and 18 others

Like Comment Repost Send

Australian International Development Network
6,813 followers
3mo ·

"The Village Hive [model] can be seen as radical because it asks the international development sector to do something it is fundamentally resistant to: work towards its own redundancy... That's unsettling for organisations that have no ...more



2 comments · 1 repost

 You and 17 others

Like Comment Repost Send



Sector Events

We hosted 19 sector events this year with a range of partners, bringing together funders and practitioners through a mix of virtual and in-person gatherings focused on strengthening global development and philanthropy. We were also invited to contribute to sector conversations through speaking and participation at events such as SXSW, ACFID's CEO Summit and other partner-led forums. Over \$130,000 was raised for three grassroots organisations at our event with The Funding Network.





Advocacy

We continued our advocacy with the Australian Government this year through two major policy contributions, responding to the 2025–26 Federal Budget and making a submission to the Australian Government and Treasury on proposed reforms to Giving Funds.

1) Giving funds are key to progressive philanthropy: AIDN's submission to the Australian Government and Treasury's proposed reforms to Public and Private Ancillary Funds ("Giving funds").

July 2025

Executive Summary

In June 2025, the Australian Government and Treasury commenced a consultation process related to proposed reforms to the regulation of Public and Private Ancillary funds. In addition to renaming ancillary funds "Giving funds", the proposed changes include:

- Aligning the annual distribution rate between public and private giving funds;
- Consideration of a possible increase in the distribution rate for giving funds; and
- Allowing giving funds to smooth the minimum rate of distribution across multiple years.

In this document, the Australian International Development Network (AIDN) makes a submission to the Treasury in relation to the proposed giving funds reforms. With a mission to foster "more" and "better" giving and investing internationally from Australian donors and grant-making organisations, AIDN argues that the need for more progressive philanthropic and grant-making principles have never been more important in the context of 2025's significant global aid cuts, increasing poverty, the threat of climate change and rising (intergenerational) inequality.

In this policy submission, AIDN:

- Agrees with the Australian Government's proposed increase to the minimum giving distribution of giving funds from 4% (for PAFs) or 5% (for PAFs) to a rate of 5-8%, aligning the distribution rate between public and private giving funds, and allowing smooth distribution over three years;
- In addition to the Australian Government's proposed reforms, AIDN further argues that the Australian Government should also encourage "spend-down" or "sunset" clauses on giving funds to accelerate the reinvestment of tax deductible funds into the communities, environment and issues of our time;

2) Submission to Philanthropy Australia as part of their response to the Australian Government and Treasury's proposed reforms to Public and Private Ancillary Funds ("Giving funds").

July 2025

Executive Summary

AIDN proposes that the Australian Government should encourage or set a minimum requirement for the relevant endowments/corpus¹ of giving funds to be invested with impact investment partners. We see this not only as an important opportunity to foster investments with positive environmental, social or governance impact, but to also grow Australia's impact investing market² and align with the Australian Government's own Impact investing policy objective.

With Philanthropy Australia's position that, whilst giving fund reforms are a centrepiece recommendation of reforming the 'deductible giving fund' (Philanthropy Australia 2025),

3) AIDN's response to the Australian Government's Federal Budget 2025-26.

April 2025

Executive Summary

On the stakes have never been higher, and yet the (ODA funding) bar so low, the opportunity for Australia to emerge as a global leader in the international development sector has never been closer to reach,

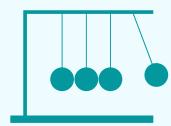
On 3 March 2025, the Australian Government released their *Latest Federal Budget and Successful Budget Summary 2025-26*. AIDN welcomed the Australian Government's commitment to previous levels of ODA at a time when aid budgets have been slashed. However, in a context where Australia's ODA remains a tiny share of federal spending, AIDN believes that the Australian Government missed an important opportunity to lead and emerge as a leader amidst tumult in the international development sector.

AIDN's own policy objectives outlined in Australia's *International Development, Decent Work and Development Finance Report (2024)*, Australia's *Humanitarian Policy (2024)*, *Global Disability Equity and Inclusion Strategy (2024)* and *Australia's International Development Strategy (2025-26)*. In particular, the Australian Government missed an opportunity to both lead and demonstrate further commitment to development financing, a fairer system, and gender equality and disability inclusion.

Throughout this document, reaffirms our alignment to the *Safer World* principles for an increase of Australia's aid budget to 0.7% of the Federal Budget.

Image: Cambodia Credit: AustralianAID (Unsplash)

Image: Malawi Credit: Jonathan Echewena (Unsplash)



Measuring Our Impact

After 7 years of advocating for more and better international giving and investing from Australians, 2025 marked the time to start measuring our impact. Our Impact Project on the State of Australian International Giving & Investing launched and we'll be releasing our findings next year.



**Thank you to all of our network
for your engagement and
enthusiasm in 2025.**

**We're as committed as ever to
continue our mission with you.**

For more information about AIDN or to
support our work, please contact

Julie Rosenberg
julie@aidnetwork.org.au

www.aidnetwork.org.au

