SNAPSHOT

FOR THE FULL REPORT:

The Glue That Binds

Insights From Seven Years of Strengthening Australian International Giving and Investing

AIDN

Australian International Development Network

The Context

AIDN was formed in 2018 following the identification of a gap - a gap in the convening and bringing together of Australian international funders. As per AIDN's Theory of Change, we know that while statistically improving, poverty, inequity and conflict remain significant issues in the Majority World. Yet only approximately 10c of every Australian philanthropic dollar goes to international causes. AIDN's founders believed it was time to foster "more" and "better" giving and investing from Australians to overseas causes. In our 2018 Manifesto, we set out how AIDN proposed to achieve this goal:

- By bringing a stronger and collective voice to address common issues to increase the flow and quality of international giving and impact investing;
- To provide tools and resources to help Australians overcome some of the barriers; and
- To help coordinate initiatives between private sector, corporate and government philanthropists and investors to yield greater benefits abroad.

From Philanthropod and The AIDN Beat, to regular policy submissions, to Insight Tours, since 2018 AIDN has only continued to grow. However, in 2025, it was time to take stock of our progress and understand if AIDN has moved the dial on international giving and investing from the Australian market. In October 2025, the AIDN team launched our "Impact Project and Survey on the State of Australian International Giving and Investing".

The Process

Between November 2025 and March 2026, we followed a 5-phase process of design, data collection, analysis and publication to help us understand our impact. In line with monitoring and evaluation methodological practice, we employed a contribution lens to analyse our data. Contribution analysis argues that complex social change interventions, like network building or sector advocacy, are best assessed by building a credible case that an intervention plausibly contributed to observed outcomes alongside other factors, rather than proving sole causation.

Key Findings

Clear growth in AIDN's activities, from Philanthropod to The Beat, Insight Tours and Open Ground. Together, these activities have helped to strengthen the glue that underpins the Australian international development and giving sector.

82%

of total survey respondents say AIDN encouraged “more giving”

93%

of total survey respondents say AIDN influenced “better” giving

24%

of funders surveyd said AIDN encouraged them to give more

55%

of surveyed funders qualified they were already giving internationally, but AIDN played a meaningful role in encouraging their giving to be “better”

We estimate that AIDN can conservatively claim contribution to the catalysation of between:

AUD $9.9 - 14.5 mil

from Australia to international causes

Wider Trends

International giving remains a relatively small share of the overall sector, at around 1% of total ACNC revenue, or approximately 10% of total philanthropic giving, according to JBWere estimates.

The number of AFR Top 50 philanthropists with an international component to their giving has increased from 7 to 11 since 2018.

However, the report also highlights structural challenges. International aid is identified as the cause area most at risk as both Australian generosity and the overall number of Australian donors declines, even as those who continue to give are giving more. Australian Government ODA remains a very small share of federal spending, at around 0.65%.

But these challenges create opportunities for AIDN.

Given AIDN's unique and neutral position within the sector, there is a role for AIDN to continue to strengthen international giving among High Net Worth Individuals, support the growth of tech and diaspora giving, engage the international impact investing community, and invest in policy advocacy to make structured giving easier.

AIDN also has the opportunity to help steward the estimated AUD $15-25 million annual additional philanthropic capital that could become available to international causes following the 2026's giving fund reforms.

The AIDN Team looks forward to continuing to convene and strengthen the sector in our ultimate goal of "more" and "better" international giving and investing.

Please direct any queries to:
Julie Rosenberg, Executive Director at AIDN
julie@aidnetwork.org.au