

**RESULTS International (Australia)**

**17 May 2011**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Overall aid increase welcome, but life-saving measures need more attention**

The increase in Australia's overseas aid in the latest Federal Budget of 8.4% in real terms in 2011-12, and the Government's recommitment to increasing aid to 0.5% of gross national income by 2015-16 are both welcome developments, given other demands on the Budget.

Grassroots anti poverty group RESULTS notes that Australia's aid spending is expected to grow in the next four years at a much higher rate than aid by most other donors and total government spending in Australia, showing that the Government is increasing the priority for aid. RESULTS National Manager, Maree Nutt said, "Given Australia's relatively strong economic and budget position, it is the right time for Australia to increase aid substantially."

However, allocations in 2011-12 for some types of aid which have a big impact on poverty reduction are disappointing. For example, the contributions to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) in 2011-12 will be minimal, which means that most of the Government's announced pledges to these organisations will be paid in the following two years.

"By delaying increased contributions to later years, the Government is reducing the scope of both the Global Fund and GAVI to increase their life-saving work," Ms Nutt noted.

On the other hand, the Budget continues the high priority for aid for education, which will increase by nearly \$100 million in 2011-12, and the increase focuses on primary and secondary education, which will have a greater impact on poverty reduction than aid for higher education.

The Government has an opportunity to increase its health commitment next month, at the pledging meeting for GAVI in London. "We are looking to the Government to increase its contribution to GAVI from \$20 million to \$33 million per year, which will contribute to GAVI's goal of saving 4 million children's lives by 2015," Ms Nutt said.

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**RESULTS International (Australia)** engages in grassroots advocacy on poverty issues with members around the country. [www.results.org.au](http://www.results.org.au)

**The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria**

is an international financing institution set up in 2001 that has committed US\$ 21.7 billion in 150 countries to support large-scale prevention, treatment and care programs against the three diseases saving an estimated 6.5 million lives. [www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)

**The Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)**

was launched in 2000 with the objectives of saving children's lives and protecting health, through increasing immunisation in the poorest countries. Over the last 10 years, GAVI's support for increased immunisation has avoided an estimated five million future deaths, using \$US 4 billion in donor funding. [www.gavialliance.org](http://www.gavialliance.org)