

Voices For Justice 2018



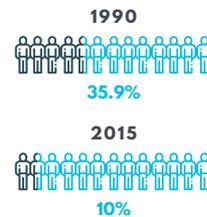
Who we are

Micah is a movement of Australian Christians, churches and organisations. We raise a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty. Hundreds of Christians from across the country, and from your electorates, have gathered here in Canberra to share our concern for the world's poor, oppressed, and displaced.

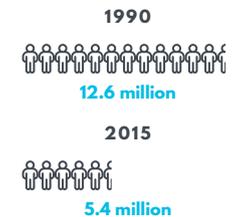
Context

Tremendous progress has been made in recent decades as the world increased its focus on the problems of global poverty. Since 1990, extreme income poverty has been slashed by almost three quarters¹; child mortality by almost two thirds²; and the world has been stepping up to liberate people trapped in slavery. These are significant achievements – however these gains are fragile. Climate change, proliferating conflicts, and poor governance are threatening to push more people into poverty and vulnerability, and undo this progress. For the first time in decades, hunger and acute malnutrition are increasing; while the number of people displaced around the world has risen to an unprecedented 68.5million people³ – fuelling trafficking and forcing millions into extreme poverty.

EXTREME POVERTY



CHILD DEATHS

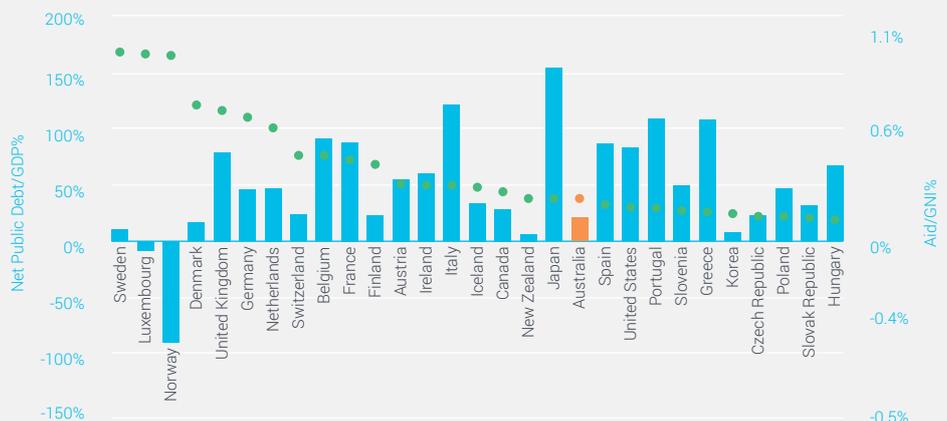


Australian Aid

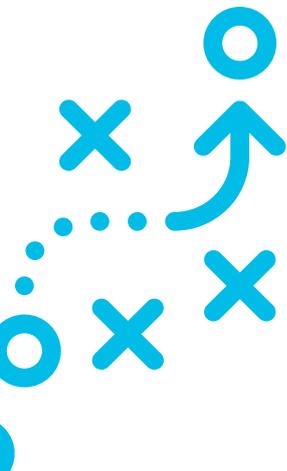
Every day, there are 20,000 less children dying compared to 1990⁴. Australian aid has been part of that story, and we have been remarkably proud of our contribution. However, we are saddened that at 0.23% GNI, Australia's generosity is at a record low – and it continues to fall. Australia's are the wealthiest people on the planet, when measured by median wealth⁵. Our budget is set to return to surplus, and at 19% net debt to GDP, we have one of the lowest levels of public debt amongst all aid-giving nations. Yet at a time when the world is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, Australia has been stepping back on the compassion and generosity, ranking 19th amongst official aid givers. As one of the richest and least indebted aid giving nations in the world Australia, should be a leader in aid generosity. It's time to begin moving in this direction.

FOREIGN AID VS. NET PUBLIC DEBT

- Net Public Debt
- ODA/GNI% 2017
- Australia



Australia should return to the top half of rich country aid donors by the end of next parliamentary term.



1 Doing More for the World's Poorest

DISABILITY FUNDING

One fifth of people in extreme poverty live with a disability. People with disabilities are often poorer, suffer from higher levels of discrimination, and are more likely to receive inadequate services⁷.

Australia has been a global leader in supporting people with disabilities – introducing a disability inclusion strategy in 2009 and renewing its commitment to disability inclusive development (DID) in 2015.

However, the earmarked funding for disability has been declining in real terms for the past four years, remaining static at \$12.9 million.

Australia should inject a further \$1 million in the next financial year to make up for this reduction in real value. It should also commit to index this funding in the forward estimates to support our disability inclusion strategy.

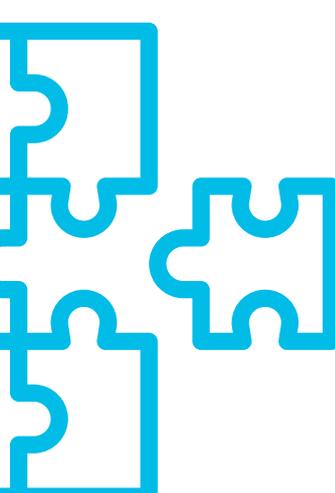


2 Doing More for those Trapped in Slavery

GLOBAL FUND TO END MODERN SLAVERY

The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS) is an innovative and bold public-private partnership seeking to leverage \$1.5 billion USD to make slavery unprofitable⁸. Australia should add its support to the Fund, and leverage our position as a leading nation in the fight against slavery. This would complement our landmark introduction of the Modern Slavery Act and our support of the "Liechtenstein Initiative" to mobilise the financial sector to tackle slavery and add a valuable tool to our current international strategy to combat modern slavery. To date, only the US and UK governments have contributed to the GFEMS.

Australia should contribute \$17 AUD million to the GFEMS. This amount would bring us in line with what the UK gave (in proportion to GDP).



3 Doing More for the Displaced

UNHCR FUNDING

With protracted crises around the world, and increasing instances of unstable governments, 68.5 million people have been forcibly displaced. 85% of these are hosted within developing countries. Resources available from donors for refugees and other displacement situations are being stretched. Based on funding to date, the UNHCR anticipate they will receive just 55% of the \$8.2 billion USD that is needed to provide essential services to displaced people, including food, healthcare, shelter and schooling⁹. In its Foreign Policy White Paper, Australia has acknowledged that it should substantially increase its humanitarian funding. Focusing a portion of this funding on the UNHCR is not just compassionate, it is consistent with Australia's policy of reducing the need for people to take unsafe journeys in order to find protection.

Australia should increase its funding to the UNHCR, from the current \$25 million to \$100 million per annum.

1 World Bank World Development Indicators (2018). Accessed at data.worldbank.org/topic/poverty Most recent data is for 2015.
2 UNICEF. *Level and Trends in Child Mortality 2018* (2018).
3 UNHCR. *Statistical Yearbook 2018* (2018). Accessed at unhcr.org/en-au/figures-at-a-glance.html
4 UNICEF. *Levels and Trends in Child Mortality 2018*.
5 Credit Suisse. *Global Wealth Report 2018*.
6 This would be moving up to a ranking of 14th position, and an aid budget that is at least 0.29% of GNI. An ask consistent with ACFI and C4AA's aid ask. See Micah's extended policy briefing paper for more detail.
7 World Health Organisation. *World Report on Disability* (2011)
8 Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, 2018.
9 Ibid

