Dear Dr. Kathleen Dermody,

First of all thanks for your email and asking for my view and comments.

As per below I would like to kindly send/share comments and views as below:

(a) an evaluation of Australia's bilateral aid program to date in Afghanistan;

Afghan Development Association (ADA) hasn't implement Australian funded project, therefore, it is difficult to precisely evaluate bilateral aid and program but it is true that Australian fund had/has positive impact on the Afghan citizens.

(b) an evaluation of the interaction and effectiveness of Australia's bilateral aid, multilateral aid, the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund and other Australian government departments delivering aid;

ARTF is channelled and managed through ministry of finance, therefore, as civil society actor; I will not be able to correctly evaluate these funding windows.

(c) the means to most effectively address the Millennium Development Goals in Afghanistan;

All MDGs goals are important but in Afghanistan I think the following are very important in the current context to be focused by Australian Aid:

Primary Education: for long-term sustainability and development the primary education is very important so literacy rate increased. My suggestion is that if Australia fund prioritized for primary education in the south region because low literacy rate in the region.

Ensure Environmental sustainability: in the current context less focus given to environmental protection and preservation by donors in the Afghanistan. I suggest if Australian fund focus this cross cutting issue.

(d) how to guarantee the safety of all workers involved in the delivery of Australian aid programs in Afghanistan; and

My suggestion in this regard is that if Afghan qualified/professional and experienced staff is used in the field level and Australian staff used for overall management, oversight and capacity building of local staff than we can secure Australian workers. The local Afghan staff can easily earn trust, support and even contribution of the local communities for development work. There are several success stories of partnership with local Afghan partners in development activities. Through use of local partners we can develop the capacity of local partners and implement program efficiently and effectively as compare to other approaches. By using local partners, the communities feel ownership in the development activities; therefore, they provide full security and protection to the staff and programs.

(e) any other related matters.

Unfortunately, NGOs/CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) feel that they have been left aside over the last 10 years by the Afghan and the international decision makers: they consider that they haven't been sufficiently consulted and were not given the chance to contribute on decisions that will deeply affect the life of the Afghans. It is now critical that NGOs/CSOs strengthen their voices, in the

frame of the transition and after transition – as they are enjoying a unique position in the Afghan institutional landscape. Indeed, local and international NGOs/CSOs are the ones delivering key services to the population, whatever the political regime in place. They are the players with the deepest understanding of the difficulties faced by the Afghans to stay alive, maintain their livelihoods, have access to education and uphold their human rights.

My suggestion in the current context would be if some part of Australian Aid allocated for NGOs/CSOs strengthening as started by Tawanmandi. Tawanmandi is a programme funded by a consortium of donors (UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden) with the aim of strengthening Afghan civil society organisations operating in the following sectors: "Peace Building and Conflict Resolution", "Anti-Corruption", "Access to Justice", "Media" and "Human Rights" and in one of the following cross cutting themes: " gender"," youth", "disabled".

ADA is partner of Tawanmandi. Tawanmandi is a programme funded by a consortium of donors (UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden) with the aim of strengthening Afghan civil society organisations operating in the following sectors: "Peace Building and Conflict Resolution", "Anti-Corruption", "Access to Justice", "Media" and "Human Rights" and in one of the following cross cutting themes: " gender"," youth", "disabled".

Best regards,

Rahatullah Naeem
Country / Managing Director
Afghan Development Association (**ADA**)

www.ada.org.af