

# INVESTMENT PRIORITIES AND CROSS-REGIONAL PROGRAMS

## Infrastructure, trade facilitation and competitiveness



AID FOR TRADE

**Target met**

20 PER CENT BY 2020



ASIA-PACIFIC  
ASIAN  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
INVESTMENT BANK

**\$161.1m**

2018–19



INDO-PACIFIC  
EMERGING  
MARKETS IMPACT  
INVESTMENT FUND

**\$40m**

2017–18 TO 2021–22

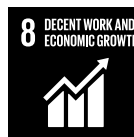
**Program highlights**  
2018–19 Budget Estimate

	2018–19
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	278.5
South-East and East Asia	243.7
South and West Asia	35.6
The Middle East and Africa	2.0
Global*	209.0
<b>Total ODA to Infrastructure, trade facilitation and competitiveness**</b>	<b>768.8</b>

\* Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.

\*\* Difference due to rounding.

Contributes to:  
**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



A mothers group from West Ambrym launched its own virgin coconut oil producing company after attending a series of up-skilling activities organised by the Department of Industry and the Australian-funded Vanuatu Skills Partnership. Photo: DFAT

For every US\$1 of the Private Infrastructure Development Group's (PIDG) member contributions, an estimated US\$17 is mobilised from private sector sources.

2106 PIDG Annual Report

## Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a key driver of economic growth. When planned, financed, constructed and managed well, infrastructure facilitates trade and investment, stimulates enterprise opportunities, generates employment and provides poor women and men with access to basic services. The many indirect benefits that flow from quality infrastructure development—reliable energy supply, better roads, improved water supply, access to sanitation, rehabilitated railways and ports, and modern telecommunications—are key factors for sustainable and inclusive social and inclusive economic growth, as well as regional connectivity, stability and prosperity.

The significant infrastructure gap in the Asia Pacific region, estimated by the ADB at US\$26 trillion to 2030<sup>5</sup>, is preventing countries from fulfilling their economic potential. Public funding alone cannot bridge this gap in infrastructure finance. Private capital will be essential, and Australia is committed to catalysing private investment in infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific through our bilateral, regional and multilateral partnerships.

Consistent with the White Paper, Australia will prioritise infrastructure development and investment that reinforces an open, global economy based on: fair and open competition; strong and transparent rules; non-discriminatory, predictable and enforceable regulatory systems; robust social and environmental safeguards, including gender equality considerations; a genuine need; and avoiding unsustainable debt burdens. Australia's Strategy for Investments in Economic Infrastructure will also continue to guide Australia's ODA expenditure in infrastructure and support our program teams to make informed investment choices.

### Case study: Australian support for infrastructure financing

Australia supports World Bank and ADB efforts on infrastructure through co-financed projects in individual countries, and through our capital contributions to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and core contributions to IDA and the ADB's Asian Development Fund, which contribute significant amounts to infrastructure development.

The lack of well-structured projects is a barrier to financing. Our support for World Bank and ADB project preparation facilities allows for the design of financially viable infrastructure projects that are attractive to private investors.

In addition, we fund the World Bank's Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility, which works to enhance the capacity of developing countries to support public-private partnerships in infrastructure.

Australia's prosperity and economic growth is tied closely to Asia. Through Australia's membership of the AIIB, we are supporting additional financing for infrastructure and greater regional connectivity in the Asia region. In 2018–19, Australia will provide \$161.1 million to the AIIB.

Australia is also an active member of the multi-donor PIDG, which mobilises private sector investment in infrastructure in frontier markets. The Group works across the infrastructure project cycle, blending member contributions with local, regional and international private sector investment, and with debt or equity from development finance institutions.

Finally, the World Bank Australia Safeguards Partnership helps ensure that infrastructure supported by major donors in the Indo-Pacific region does not harm either the environment or the lives of people living in communities impacted directly by these projects.

<sup>5</sup> ADB, *Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs*, 2017.

### Case study: Emerging Markets Impact Investment Fund

Small and medium enterprises can have sustainable social and economic impacts on their communities, but can have trouble accessing the capital they need to expand their operations. While this represents great opportunities for investors, East Asia and South-East Asia currently contribute only 6 per cent of total assets under management for impact investors globally. The market in the Pacific is smaller still.

The Emerging Markets Impact Investment Fund is a \$40 million flagship financing mechanism designed to have social impact at its core and to attract greater investment to the region by deploying capital to funds that service early-stage small and medium enterprises, and by providing technical assistance to funds and businesses to improve management capacity, financial skills and business operating practices.

The Fund will support companies that benefit poor communities and enhance quality of life through products or services, supply chains, or employment practices across a range of sectors including agriculture, health care, education, financial inclusion, clean energy and technology.

The Fund will have a strong focus on targeting enterprises that have a positive impact on women, whether they are led by women, promote gender equality in their workplaces, or provide products or services that support women.



Improving water and sanitation through the Indonesia Infrastructure Facility. Photo: DFAT

## Trade facilitation and competitiveness

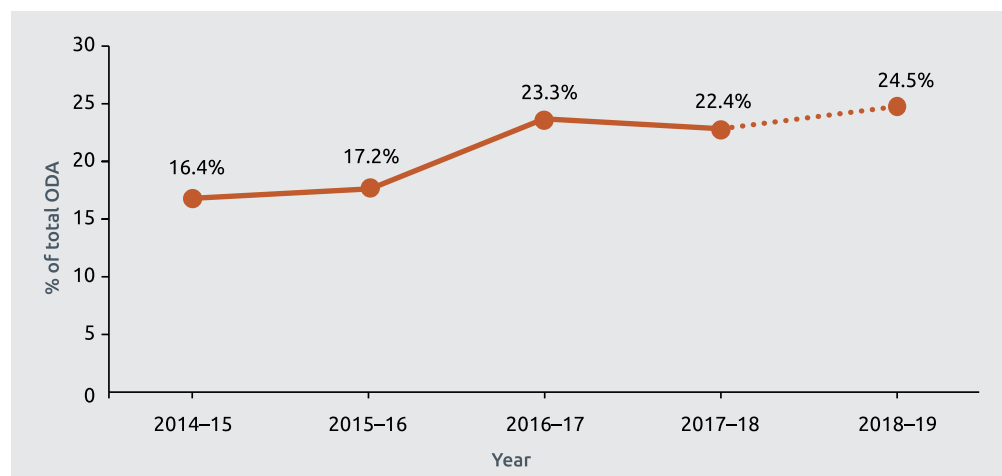
Australia's aid for trade investments involve regulatory reform, infrastructure modernisation and private sector capacity building in developing countries. The fundamental objectives of Australia's aid for trade agenda are to enhance developing countries' engagement in the global trading system through facilitating trade and building international competitiveness that empowers women economically.

Developing countries' increasing need for aid for trade is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which calls for a rise in aid for trade investments. In response to this, the White Paper notes that aid for trade will be used to catalyse sustained and inclusive economic growth to help reduce poverty.

Australia's aid for trade work is guided by the Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments. The Strategy provides a framework to ensure that aid for trade is well-planned and effective, meets the needs of developing country partners, and is aligned with Australia's interests. The Strategy gives effect to one of the 10 Australian Aid strategic targets, which is to increase aid for trade expenditure to 20 per cent of the Australian Aid budget by 2020.

Australia surpassed this 20 per cent target in 2016–17; however as the target is a proportion of the total Australian Aid budget this will fluctuate from year-to-year. Australia's aid for trade investments are forecast to be \$1 billion in 2018–19, or 24.5 per cent of the Australian Aid budget.

**Figure 2: Aid for trade trajectory**



### Case study: Financing trade in developing countries

International trade is a driving force behind economic growth. Since 1990, it has lifted more than a billion people out of poverty in our region. For small and medium businesses in developing countries, having access to trade finance is crucial to participating in the global trading system. The ADB estimates there is about a \$1 trillion trade finance gap in the Asia-Pacific region.

Through the ADB's Trade Finance Program, Australia is: supporting stronger prudential and governance processes for banks in the region; helping banks to develop new products that can be accessed by their customers to finance their trade transactions; and providing guarantees and co-insurance to support transactions. The outcome is improved access to trade finance in developing countries, especially for small businesses.

In 2017–18, Australia's support helped catalyse more than 3500 trade finance transactions worth \$4.5 billion in developing countries in our region. This involved more than 240 banks and benefited more than 2800 small and medium enterprises.

With Australia's support, this work is also expanding into the Pacific region for the first time. Following a rigorous due diligence process and training, banks in Fiji, PNG, Samoa and Vanuatu are now being supported to deliver loans and guarantees to prospective traders. The first transaction supported was for \$30,000 in pre-export finance to ship 8 tonnes of cocoa beans from Samoa to Japan.

Trade finance comprises loans and guarantees provided by financial institutions, such as banks and insurance companies, which allow businesses to buy or sell goods and services across borders.

In 2018–19, Australia will continue to make aid for trade investments that:

- » reduce trade costs at the border through partnerships, such as with the World Bank and the World Economic Forum, which will enable us to help developing countries make customs procedures and logistics processes more efficient
- » improve small business access to global markets in partnership with Standards Australia and the International Organization for Standardisation, which will enable us to help developing countries to modernise standards and adopt best practice in relation to digital trade and e-commerce
- » make trade more inclusive by using the platform of the Global Trade Professionals Alliance, which will assist women entrepreneurs in developing countries to build their capacity to do business internationally and connect them to networks for future commercial opportunities.



## Agriculture, fisheries and water

### Program highlights 2018–19 Budget Estimate



**AGRICULTURE**  
AgRESULTS

**\$20m**

2012–13 TO 2019–20



**GLOBAL**  
AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH  
THROUGH CGIAR

**\$18.3m**

2018–19



**MEKONG**  
AUSTRALIAN WATER  
PARTNERSHIPS

**\$2m**

2018–19

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Water requirements for drinking, food and energy production will increase as will demand for energy needed to grow, store and transport food, underscoring the nexus between food, energy and water.

White Paper

	2018–19
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	83.3
South-East and East Asia	137.7
South and West Asia	39.9
The Middle East and Africa	21.7
Global*	96.3
<b>Total ODA to agriculture, fisheries and water</b>	<b>378.9</b>

\* Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.

As the world's population grows, demand for food, fisheries and water will continue to rise. These pressures, compounded by climate change, will strain the world's resources in a way that could limit future prosperity and contribute to conflict and population displacement. Agriculture and fisheries play a vital role in economic growth and poverty reduction and are key to the achievement of the SDGs, especially Goal 2. Meeting future food demand in a sustainable way will require major advances in productivity, market systems, natural resource management and governance. It will also require managing increased demand for water.

In addition to supplying agricultural products to global markets, Australia supports basic food security and efficient water management internationally by promoting agricultural, fisheries and water development through innovative partnerships with the private sector, civil society and partner governments.

In 2018–19, an estimated 9 per cent of Australia's development assistance will be invested in the agriculture, fisheries and water sectors. Australia's support is guided by the Strategy for Australia's aid investments in agriculture, fisheries and water (2015).

In agriculture, water and fisheries, Australia's priorities are:

- » strengthening markets: To help increase the participation of small-scale farmers and fishers in markets and address constraints, including by leveraging private sector investment and innovation (with an emphasis on women's economic empowerment).
- » innovating for productivity and sustainable resource use: To improve productivity along food and agriculture value chains and promote more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, using Australian and international research and expertise.
- » promoting effective policy, governance and reform: To assist partner countries achieve more effective policy settings to promote sustainable and inclusive growth, open trade and improve the enabling environment for business, investment and innovation.
- » improving productivity, governance and sustainability of fisheries management in Pacific island countries: To increase the economic return and strengthen community-based management of fisheries to detect and prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; population growth and overfishing; and negotiate international treaties on maritime boundaries and biodiversity in the high seas.



Improving agriculture and processing coffee In Flores. Photo: Hasan Tribuana

In 2018–19, Australian development support to the agriculture, fisheries and water sector will focus on:

- » working with partner governments and international organisations to support private sector-led agricultural development in low-income countries, especially in the Indo-Pacific region
- » helping conserve the genetic diversity of food crops in gene and seed banks with a focus on the Pacific—a highly biodiverse region
- » advocating for more open agricultural trading systems, through international and regional organisations
- » promoting demand for ethically and sustainably produced goods in Australia and in our region, thereby driving faster and more pro-poor, private sector-led growth in the Indo-Pacific
- » strengthening efforts to share our water management expertise in the Indo-Pacific region through funding for a second four-year term for the successful Australian Water Partnership
- » supporting Pacific coastal communities to manage coastal ecosystems and develop alternative livelihoods where fish stocks are under pressure and maximise the potential of the blue economy
- » targeting water scarcity and increasing water use efficiency through improved water management, drawing on Australian expertise.

#### Case study: Vaccine Development Pilot

AgResults is a \$122 million collaborative initiative between the governments of Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, United States, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The initiative designs and implements prize competitions, also referred to as pay-for-success or pull mechanisms. These innovative development finance mechanisms incentivise the private sector to work towards a defined goal shaped around overcoming barriers and developing solutions to food security and agricultural challenges that focus on poor households. Solutions are intended to be sustainable and accessible to the poor after initiatives are complete.

The Brucellosis Vaccine Development Pilot is a US\$30 million pull mechanism that aims to incentivise animal health companies to develop a vaccine against *Brucella melitensis*, a strain of Brucellosis that particularly affects small ruminants, such as goats and sheep, and is prevalent throughout developing countries. Brucellosis is a costly and highly infectious disease that affects livestock and causes abortions, infertility, decreased milk production and weight loss. The anticipated impact of the vaccine is to improve livelihoods and incomes for smallholder farmers by mitigating costs, improving health outcomes, reducing infection rates and reducing disease outbreaks.



Making livestock vaccines, medicines and diagnostics accessible and available to the millions of smallholder livestock keepers. Photo: GALVmed



### Case Study: Enhancing women's economic empowerment in the mountainous North-West of Vietnam



Enhancing women's economic power: A cinnamon farmer in Lao Cai, supported under an Australian program. Photo: Oxfam Australia

The mountainous North-West of Vietnam is home to a diverse ethnic minority population. It has some of the highest levels of poverty and inequality in the country. Women in these areas are particularly disadvantaged, experiencing challenges such as isolation, lower levels of education and lack of decision-making power in their households and communities, all of which prevents them from accessing economic opportunities.

The Australian Government is supporting investments that aim to overcome some of these challenges and increase the social and economic empowerment of women in the agriculture and tourism sectors in the North-West of Vietnam. The \$33.7 million Aus4Equality program aims to support women to better engage in agriculture and tourism markets, enhance women's voices in decision-making, promote partnerships with the private sector, and support more inclusive government policies and services. In 2018–19, Aus4Equality will continue to work in partnership with the Government of Vietnam, civil society and the private sector to support small-scale farmers to improve their farming techniques, business planning and links to markets.

Australia's Women's Economic Empowerment through Agriculture Value Chain Enhancement program (\$3.5 million over four years) is also supporting the social and economic empowerment of women in the North-West of Vietnam, focusing on banana, cinnamon and pork agricultural value chains. Since 2016, the program has increased the participation and decision-making power of women in households and communities, helped producer groups achieve better access to market information, and increased farmer incomes by introducing improved processing techniques.

## Effective governance

### Program highlights 2018–19 Budget Estimate



**PNG**  
JUSTICE SERVICES  
FOR DEVELOPMENT

**\$90m**

2015–16 TO 2019–20



**INDO-PACIFIC**  
JUSTICE AND  
SECURITY

**\$15.8m**

2017–18 TO 2020–21

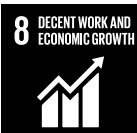


**TIMOR-LESTE**  
GOVERNANCE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT

**\$72m**

2012–13 TO 2020–21

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	381.4
South-East and East Asia	220.7
South and West Asia	70.1
The Middle East and Africa	15.1
Global*	124.5
<b>Total ODA to effective governance**</b>	<b>811.8</b>

\* Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.

\*\* Difference due to rounding.

Australia focuses on creating the conditions in our region for inclusive growth within a rules-based and stable investment environment by supporting better public policy and financial management and helping to strengthen accountable and transparent governments. Australia prioritises investments in governance because, where governance is poor, development outcomes are also poor. This is particularly true in fragile and conflict-affected settings. We recognise that peace, development, stability and economic growth will not occur in the absence of strong, effective and inclusive institutions in our partner countries.

We also recognise that improving governance and addressing fragility and conflict are inherently political problems, requiring a holistic (foreign policy, development, trade and security) response. Australia's efforts will continue to address the drivers of conflict, fragility and poor governance and not just their symptoms. In all our governance work, we recognise the importance of taking an approach that is sensitive to the different needs of men, women, boys and girls.

In 2018–19, Australian development support to effective governance will focus on:

- » improving public financial management, regulatory reform, economic governance and a better investment environment in partner countries, including through the Solomon Islands Governance Program, Australia-Indonesia Economic Cooperation Partnership, and Governance for Development program in Timor-Leste
- » increasing transparency in government by supporting the implementation of freedom of information laws, including through the UN-Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Program's work in Vanuatu

- » promoting women's rights, such as political participation as voters and candidates in the Pacific
- » supporting countries in our region to implement their obligations to combat corruption, fraud and misuse of power under the UN Convention Against Corruption
- » strengthening international efforts to deny safe havens for corrupt funds, and facilitate the return of stolen state assets
- » improving women's leadership and decision-making opportunities in the Pacific
- » providing logistics, policy and technical advice for electoral processes in partner countries in 2018–19, such as in Solomon Islands and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville
- » improving access to justice and community safety, especially for women and children affected by family and sexual violence, and supporting capacity building for inclusive, legitimate and responsive justice systems in partner countries such as PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
- » supporting influential policy and research in Asian partner countries, including through the Knowledge Sector Initiative in Indonesia
- » strengthening reform coalitions in Asia and the Pacific to achieve gender equality outcomes, going beyond more traditional technocratic approaches to influence underlying power dynamics, supported by research from the Developmental Leadership Program, in partnership with the University of Birmingham
- » enhancing global efforts to implement Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, including a focus on measuring peace in the Pacific
- » funding conflict resolution and violence reduction through peace support programs in Myanmar, the Philippines and Autonomous Region of Bougainville in PNG, with a focus on implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and UNSCR 1325
- » influencing the international agenda on governance, conflict and fragility through the OECD's International Network on Conflict and Fragility and Governance Network, including through stronger coherence between development, humanitarian, peace and state building actors at country level.

In 2018–19, Australian development assistance will enhance its capacity to support improved governance in extractive economies in developing countries, including by:

- » playing a lead role in global initiatives, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Extractives Global Programmatic Support Multi-Donor Trust Fund managed by the World Bank, to promote the open and accountable management of natural resources
- » drawing on Australia's domestic experience and global reputation for good extractives governance to develop new approaches to help resource rich developing countries transform their oil, mining and gas resources into long-term economic and social development gains
- » promoting and strengthening norms and standards in the extractives sector consistent with transparency, good governance and sustainability, including through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for trading rough (unpolished) diamonds, targeting the illegal trafficking in conflict diamonds and the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in the extractives sector.

## Health

### Program highlights 2018–19 Budget Estimate



**GLOBAL  
INDO-PACIFIC  
HEALTH SECURITY**

**\$300m**

2017–18 TO 2022–23



**GLOBAL  
GLOBAL POLIO  
ERADICATION  
INITIATIVE**

**\$18m**

2018–19 TO 2019–20



**GLOBAL  
SEXUAL AND  
REPRODUCTIVE  
HEALTH INITIATIVE**

**\$6m**

2017–18 TO 2020–21

Contributes to:

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**3** GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



	2018–19
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	165.8
South-East and East Asia	69.3
South and West Asia	22.5
The Middle East and Africa	8.5
Global*	169.6
<b>Total ODA to Health</b>	<b>435.7</b>

\* Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.

The White Paper recognises good health and strong and resilient health systems are important to support productive societies and economic growth, and that global cooperation is essential to guard against global health risks. Alongside this, the White Paper highlights our commitment to guarding against regional and global health risks. This includes responding to the introduction and spread of infectious disease and preventing disease.

The Health for Development Strategy 2015–2020 guides Australia's policy engagement and investment decisions with a focus on strengthening country-level systems and services tailored to the health needs of women and men and regional preparedness and capacity to respond to emerging health threats. The Strategy prioritises investments in:

- » enhancing core public health systems and capacities in key partner countries, including service delivery, health workforce, health information systems, medicines, financing and governance
- » combatting health threats that cross-national borders, such as preventable infectious diseases and drug resistant strains of malaria and tuberculosis (TB)
- » ensuring a more effective global health response, through contributing to, and influencing the work of, global health initiatives and organisations
- » implementing innovations in health that respond to the complex health challenges of our region
- » providing access to clean water and sanitation and improving hygiene practices.





A team of medical professionals from Interplast Australia and New Zealand conduct a workshop with Fijian nurses. The program is funded by the Australian Government and Rotary Clubs in Australia and New Zealand. Photo: DFAT

The White Paper gives high priority to water and references the Water for Women Fund as a key program for improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) across the Indo-Pacific. The Water for Women Fund began in December 2017 and is being implemented by 10 civil society organisations across 16 countries. In addition to achieving WASH outcomes, the Fund will contribute to Australia's continued global leadership in the promotion of gender equality. Other Australian investments in WASH include a contribution to the World Bank's Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership, a partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) focusing on WASH in health care facilities and bilateral programs in Indonesia and Vietnam. Together, they comprise the Water for Development portfolio and play an important role in securing improved health and economic development in the region.

In making health investments, Australia works at country, regional and global levels to respond to partner country and regional health needs. In 2018–19, Australian development support to the health sector will focus on:

- » supporting investments across the Indo-Pacific designed to promote sexual and reproductive health rights, including focusing on the sustainable expansion of access to family planning services. These include integrated sexual and reproductive health rights and gender-based violence responses on the Afghanistan–Pakistan border; research into the barriers to adolescent female contraceptive update in the Pacific; and the enhancement of young people’s knowledge on comprehensive sexuality education through formal and non-formal education in Nepal.
- » strengthening health systems, with Australia’s largest bilateral country health investments being Cambodia, PNG, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste
- » improving the quality and accessibility of clinical care in Pacific island countries by supporting the delivery of essential hospital care
- » assisting countries in South-East Asia and the Pacific to strengthen their public health systems and sustainably finance and manage disease and immunisation programs
- » supporting malaria elimination in the Asia-Pacific region by fostering regional partnerships and supporting the Asia Pacific Leaders’ Malaria Alliance Secretariat
- » driving change and innovation in health security policy and practice through Australia’s Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security
- » supporting early action under the Indo-Pacific Health Security Initiative to strengthen regional health security through national and regional-level capacity building activities, investments in disease surveillance, diagnostic capacity and outbreak response, and support for improvements in the regulation of new drugs and diagnostics for infectious diseases
- » strengthening sexual and reproductive health outcomes, through three programs with the UNFPA in the Pacific and seven programs in the Indo-Pacific region, which aim to improve the supply and demand for quality services, focusing on reducing unmet need for family planning
- » deepening Australia’s engagement with international health and medical research institutions to support the development of innovative drugs, diagnostics and other disease prevention and control technologies for the benefit of the Indo-Pacific region
- » supporting global public-private partnerships, multilateral organisations and international NGOs to extend the reach of our development program to more countries and people and to promote health investment in our region. This will occur, for example, through contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, WHO, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and UN Population Fund.
- » reducing childhood deaths and illness from vaccine-preventable diseases by increasing access to comprehensive routine immunisation programs through our partnership with Gavi, the vaccine alliance. Gavi promotes the use of new and under-used vaccines, strengthens immunisation systems and helps developing countries access vaccines at affordable prices.
- » improving access to safe and affordable water and improved sanitation and hygiene practices and improved nutrition including through the Water for Women Initiative.

### Case study: New tools for emerging diseases

The Indo-Pacific Health Security Initiative will contribute to the avoidance and containment of emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats that have the potential to cause social and economic harms on a national, regional or global scale. A major disease outbreak would have severe health and economic implications for Australia, our region and probably the whole world. It would cost lives and disrupt trade, investment and the movement of people.

The constant evolution of new microbes that cause endemic disease strains means that infectious diseases such as malaria and TB pose a threat to the security of our region. The international spread of infectious diseases poses further threats through trade and tourism. Many viruses and bacteria have now acquired resistance to tried and true antimicrobial drugs. That means we need to invest in the discovery and development of new treatments and diagnostic tools, and in innovative technologies for controlling mosquitoes and other vectors that promote the spread of several major infectious diseases including malaria, dengue and Zika.

To accelerate the development of innovative technologies and treatments, Australia will invest \$75 million over five years in Product Development Partnerships (PDPs). PDPs bring together funding agencies, private industry and scientists to develop new drugs, diagnostics and other disease prevention and control technologies for use in poor-country settings where market incentives alone will not drive product development.

This investment represents a 50 per cent annual increase in Australia's funding for PDPs. It follows an independent review of Australia's past support for PDPs, which found that they deliver results, manage risks while fostering innovation, and represent good value for money. Australia's previous funding of the Medicines for Malaria Venture PDP supported the development of Coartem® Dispersible, the first anti-malarial drug made especially for children. The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, another PDP funded in 2015, used Australian and partner funds to develop the Xpert® Ultra test, which allows health care workers to accurately diagnose drug-resistant TB with portable, cheaper tests.

Four PDPs<sup>6</sup> will receive support from Australia from 2018 to 2022 to develop new drugs and diagnostics for malaria and TB, including drug-resistant forms of these diseases, and vector control tools for a range of mosquito-borne diseases. The funding for these PDPs complements Australia's existing investment through the innovationXchange in Monash University's World Mosquito Program, which is conducting world-leading trials to eliminate the transmission of several mosquito-borne diseases including dengue and Zika in locations such as Fiji, Indonesia and Vietnam. These trials are exploiting the ability of the naturally occurring Wolbachia bacterium to block transmission of these viruses from the virus-carrying mosquitoes to humans.

By prioritising the development of new drugs and diagnostics for malaria and TB, and vector control tools for mosquito-borne diseases, the Indo-Pacific Health Security Initiative continues Australia's commitment to disrupting the spread of infectious disease through innovative approaches.

### Australia has pledged

# \$220m

TO THE GLOBAL FUND  
FOR THREE YEARS  
2017 TO 2019

**During this timeframe,  
the Global Fund will:**



INVEST

# \$242m

US DOLLARS

TO COMBAT  
DRUG-RESISTANT  
MALARIA IN THE GREATER  
MEKONG SUB-REGION



INVEST

# \$190m

US DOLLARS

TO FIND 1.5 MILLION  
MISSING TB CASES  
LARGELY WITHIN THE  
INDO-PACIFIC



## PROVIDE CRITICAL SUPPORT

TO COMBAT MULTI-DRUG  
RESISTANT TB, PREVALENT  
IN ASIA AND PNG

<sup>6</sup> The four PDPs are: Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, TB Alliance, Medicines for Malaria Venture and the Innovative Vector Control Consortium.

## Education

### Program highlights 2018–19 Budget Estimate



**MYANMAR**  
MYANMAR EDUCATION  
CONSORTIUM PHASE II

**\$10m**

2016–17 TO 2020–21



**GLOBAL**  
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP  
FOR EDUCATION

**\$90m**

2018–19 TO 2020–21



**GLOBAL**  
EDUCATION  
CANNOT WAIT

**\$10m**

2017–18 TO 2020–21

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

**4** QUALITY  
EDUCATION



**5** GENDER  
EQUALITY



2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	202.1
South-East and East Asia	243.7
South and West Asia	81.8
The Middle East and Africa	45.5
Global*	64.1
<b>Total ODA to education</b>	<b>637.2</b>

\* Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.

A quality education is transformational. It makes people healthier and more productive, increases their incomes and job opportunities, and gives them more control over their lives. At country level, improving education standards increases economic growth. Recent research shows that quality primary schooling was the most important factor in the economic growth experienced by East Asian countries in the second half of the 20th century.

Educating women and girls is particularly transformative. It leads to reduced rates of maternal mortality, better educated and healthier children and increased household incomes.

One-quarter of the world's school-age children live in East Asia and the Pacific. While the region is home to some of the most successful education systems, up to 60 per cent of students are in poorly performing systems where performance in key subjects is low or unknown. Girls, people living with disabilities and those facing geographic, ethnic or socioeconomic constraints, are particularly disadvantaged.

Australia and its neighbours benefit from development programs in education that support human resource development, economic growth and stability across the region. The *Strategy for Australia's Aid Investments in Education 2015–2020* establishes how Australia will work with partner countries to help them deliver comprehensive and high-quality education services.

In 2018–19, Australian development support to the education sector will focus on:

- » enabling the most marginalised in society, including girls, ethnic minorities and children with disabilities, to receive a quality education in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines and across the Pacific



- » undertaking multi-year studies to improve teacher quality and student learning in Timor-Leste and Vanuatu
- » increasing knowledge and evidence on what works best in education to strengthen the performance of education systems
- » improving the measurement of learning outcomes to support work on monitoring Goal 4
- » complementing our bilateral programs through contributions to global education programs like the Global Partnership for Education
- » education in emergencies by supporting Education Cannot Wait, which ensures education is prioritised in responses to humanitarian disasters.



The Basic Education Assistance for Muslim Mindanao program has established 845 learning centres in conflict-affected areas and disadvantaged communities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, including seven floating centres in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi. Photo: DFAT



**3810**  
**awardees**

ACROSS 49 COUNTRIES  
GLOBALLY



**55%**  
**females**

2018  
**AUSTRALIA AWARDS  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

## Australia Awards

The White Paper acknowledges that education, training and research exchanges are central to Australia's connection to the region. These exchanges build influence, strengthen links between people, institutions and organisations, and enhance mutual understanding. Australia invests significantly in educational exchanges through the Australia Awards.

Australia Awards are prestigious international scholarships and short courses funded by the Australian Government. They offer the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia and the region, so they can, in turn, contribute to the development of their home nations.

Australia Awards are a whole-of-government initiative bringing together scholarships administered by Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), DFAT and Department of Education.

Australia Awards are a feature of nearly all of Australia's bilateral development assistance programs. They use Australian education and training expertise to build the capacity of our partner countries to address development challenges. They strengthen existing partnerships and develop new connections at individual, country, regional and multilateral levels.

The strategic framework of Australia Awards is outlined in the Australia Awards Global Strategy: Investing in the next generation of global leaders for development 2016–18.

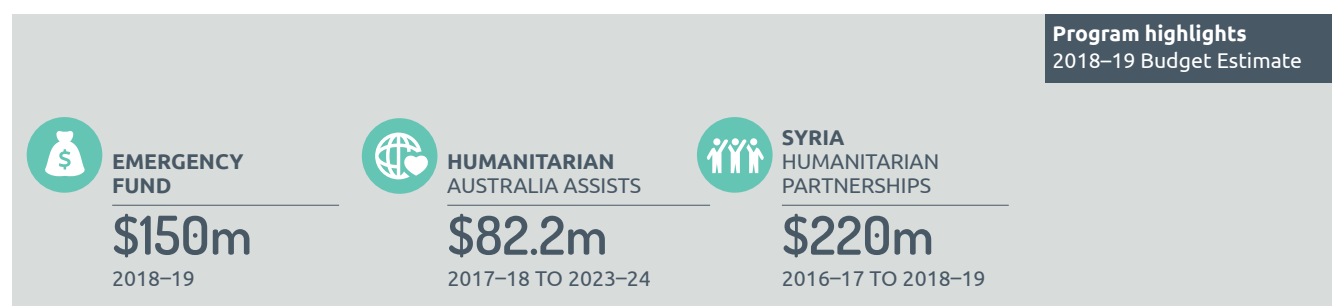
Key principles guiding investment in Australia Awards are:

- » alignment with Australia's development, economic and public diplomacy priorities
- » equity of access
- » merit-based selection
- » value for money and evidence based decision-making.

In 2018, Australia offered 4031 Australia Awards scholarships and fellowships and short courses to individuals from more than 60 developing countries, including 1273 Australia Awards scholarships; 340 Australia Awards Pacific scholarships; 1136 Australia Awards Fellowships; 7 ACIAR awards; and 1275 Australia Awards short courses.

Australia Awards are provided in line with the priority sectors identified by each country program. They support long-term vocational, undergraduate, Masters or PhD level study at Australian institutions. Scholarship designs for each bilateral program identify priority areas of study to support partner countries' development objectives.

## Building resilience



	2018–19
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	111.4
South-East and East Asia	73.3
South and West Asia	31.9
The Middle East and Africa	165.4
Global*	308.9
<b>Total ODA to building resilience</b>	<b>690.9</b>

\* Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.

Contributes to:

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



### Humanitarian and disaster risk reduction

Humanitarian crises reverse hard-won development gains, increase poverty and can result in instability that can last for decades. The UN estimates that from 2005–2015 disasters impacted more than 1.5 billion people and caused economic losses of US\$1.4 trillion. In 2017, the World Bank assessed that global natural hazards cost more than US\$670 billion in annual consumption loss. Climate change, urbanisation and population growth are significant drivers of increased risk exposure in our region.

Australia's development assistance to countries in the Indo-Pacific region helps to strengthen resilience and mitigate the impact of future disasters. For example, Australian investments in PNG, Solomon Island and Vanuatu have improved the resilience of critical infrastructure to extreme weather and seismic events. This infrastructure includes roads, education facilities, hospitals and health clinics, water supply and public buildings. Addressing gender equality considerations and responding to the needs of women and girls are essential steps in ensuring that strategies to strengthen resilience and reduce disaster risks are effective.

When disasters strike and during times of crisis, Australia provides generous and timely assistance to our neighbours. In our immediate region during 2017–18, we provided rapid and effective humanitarian support to communities in Indonesia, the Philippines, PNG, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu affected by volcanic eruptions, severe weather events and earthquakes. This assistance saved lives and helped hasten recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Additionally, Australia's ability to mitigate disaster risks and respond quickly to emerging disasters has been strengthened through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP). The AHP is an arrangement with six leading Australian NGOs and their consortia partners, which facilitates the Australian Government partnering rapidly with organisations best placed

to provide support to affected communities during crises. In 2017–18, Australia’s funding to the AHP supported humanitarian responses in nine countries including Bangladesh, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, PNG, South Sudan, Tonga, Vanuatu and Yemen.

In 2017, the AHP’s \$50 million, five-year Disaster READY initiative was launched, focusing on five countries in our immediate region—Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu—all of which are ranked among the world’s most disaster-prone countries. In 2018–19, Disaster READY will continue to assist communities and local governments to better prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. This assistance supports the focus in the White Paper on building resilience in the Pacific, and complements Australia’s \$38.5 million, five-year Australian Red Cross Humanitarian Partnership which works with local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to help communities to anticipate, prepare for and reduce risks from disasters.

#### Case study: Tropical Cyclone Gita cash programming in Tonga



Assisting Tonga’s in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita. Photo: DFAT

On 12 February 2018, Tropical Cyclone Gita smashed into Tonga causing damage equivalent to 15 per cent to 20 per cent of GDP. The first Australian Defence Force flights arrived to deliver humanitarian supplies and expert personnel within 24 hours of the cyclone arriving. Australia’s emergency response and longer-term reconstruction assistance totalled \$14 million. This included: providing relief supplies, such as tarpaulins, for shelter; restoring power connections; and helping get children back to school.

Using an innovative approach, Australia, the World Bank and the Government of Tonga moved swiftly to make available an additional cash payment of around \$130 per person to some of the most vulnerable people affected by the storm. By using an existing Tongan Government social welfare scheme for elderly pensioners and people with disabilities, Australian assistance reached those in need less than four weeks after the storm, assisting with recovery efforts.

International experience demonstrates that beneficiaries of cash assistance recover more quickly from crises and use their funds to seek medical assistance, repair their homes, buy food, repair gardens, repair agricultural land and help family members recover.



As humanitarian crises become more frequent and complex, Australia is identifying new ways to respond, including through better engagement with the private sector. A new partnership with Australian energy companies following Cyclone Gita in Tonga enabled the deployment of a team of 10 Australian electrical lines technicians to Tongapatu, the main island severely impacted by the cyclone. These technicians, working alongside counterparts from Tonga and New Zealand, helped restore power to thousands of homes and businesses and played a vital role in helping Tonga to recover. Tongan authorities estimated that, without external assistance, restoration of power would have taken up to three months. Working together, in less than five weeks, power was back on for the vast majority of Tongans.

**Table 3: Estimated breakdown of Australian Humanitarian Program funding**

	2017–18 Budget Estimate \$m	2018–19 Budget Estimate \$m
Disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response	39.0	39.0
Protracted crises and strengthening humanitarian action	78.4	87.2
Emergency Fund	150.0	150.0
International Committee of the Red Cross	27.5	27.5
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	8.8	10.0
World Food Programme	40.0	40.0
United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund	11.0	11.0
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	25.0	25.0
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	20.0	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>399.7</b>	<b>409.7</b>

## Conflict and displacement

In accordance with commitments made in the White Paper, Australia will continue to respond to the long-term challenge posed by the global displacement of people, including 22.5 million refugees and more than 40 million internally displaced people. We support displaced people as close to their homes as possible, so they can return when conditions allow. This is essential because permanent resettlement is available to only a fraction of the world's displaced.

Australia works closely with a range of international organisations to protect and support refugees and displaced people, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Australia focuses strongly on protection efforts for women and girls and people with disabilities because they are particularly vulnerable during conflicts and natural disasters.

### Middle East

Now in its eighth year, the Syria conflict remains one of the biggest humanitarian and security crises facing the world today. The UN estimates that 13.1 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance, including 6.1 million who are internally displaced. Humanitarian access remains a pressing issue and an estimated 3 million people live in hard-to-reach areas. The crisis has also displaced more than 45.6 million Syrian refugees to countries in the surrounding region, including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. More than 91 per cent of refugees live in host communities outside formal refugee camps.

Australia's \$220 million package of assistance addresses the humanitarian and longer-term needs of displaced Syrians. The package has continued Australia's humanitarian assistance inside Syria and to refugees living in Jordan and Lebanon, including with the provision of food, shelter, medical assistance, protection, services in response to gender-based violence, and access to clean water. The package is supporting the governments of Jordan and Lebanon to host large numbers of Syrian refugees through programs to strengthen education systems and improve livelihoods for refugees and vulnerable host populations. Australia will provide \$100 million under the package in 2018–19.

The humanitarian situation in Iraq also remains grave, with 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. An estimated 2.6 million remain displaced by the conflict, which began in 2014. While people can return to many liberated cities and towns, significant work is necessary to restore basic services in these areas. Protection of civilians affected by the conflict remains the key humanitarian challenge.

Australia is providing a three-year \$100 million humanitarian and stabilisation package of assistance for Iraq. The package is providing predictable funding to international efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable conflict-affected populations in Iraq, contributing to the stabilisation of liberated areas and promoting social cohesion. Australia will provide \$35 million under this program in 2018–19.

## **Africa**

Australia's humanitarian assistance to Africa focuses on the crises in South Sudan and Somalia, and the resulting displacement to neighbouring countries. Five years of conflict in South Sudan has left 7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 1.9 million people internally displaced. More than 2 million more people have fled from South Sudan to neighbouring countries. In Somalia, 6 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 2 million who are displaced (including around 1.3 million children). Australia will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to support people inside South Sudan and Somalia, through the UN and other trusted humanitarian partners.

Australia supports the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, which has trials in Ethiopia and Uganda, and is helping to equip refugees with skills and training, among other initiatives. At a time when traditional approaches are being overwhelmed, Australia is contributing to the development of the Global Compact on Refugees, scheduled to be agreed by UN member states in 2018. The Refugee Compact seeks to comprehensively address the needs of displaced people and to better support countries hosting large refugee populations for protracted periods.

## **Asia**

Australia also provides generous assistance to address the impacts of the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan. More information can be found in the relevant country section.

## Social protection

Social protection provides direct support to poor and vulnerable people so they can feed their families, keep children in school and pursue livelihood opportunities. Australia's support to social protection is in line with the SDGs. A key target of Goal 1 and Goal 10 is to ensure appropriate social protection systems exist and to expand their coverage. Australia's approach to social protection remains focused on supporting partner governments to improve their social protection programs. These programs reduce poverty and inequality and support growth that is inclusive of the poor and vulnerable, which are important areas of focus in the White Paper.

In 2018–19, Australia will continue to work with countries in our region to develop and expand their own social protection systems. In Indonesia, Australia will assist the Papua Provincial Government to pilot a cash transfer program to reduce child malnutrition, improve child health, promote local economic growth, and reduce poverty. Through the World Bank, Australia is helping to expand Indonesia's Family Hope Conditional Cash Transfers Program from 6 million households to 10 million households by the end of 2018. This program helps the poorest families invest in the health and education of their children.

Australia is assisting the Government of Bangladesh to operationalise its ambitious new social security strategy, which is part of Bangladesh's drive to become a middle-income country by 2021. Bangladesh spends more than most countries in the region on social protection, so helping Bangladesh improve their system is an effective way for Australia to reach the country's poorest households. Australia will also continue to support the country's largest NGO, BRAC, on a program that provides cash and in-kind support to the poorest households to help build their resilience through diversified livelihoods. This model is being refined and replicated across the globe.

In the Philippines, Australia's support will focus on continuous improvement of the conditional cash transfers that cover 4.4 million poor households. Australia will also work with the government to develop a social protection framework for the Philippines to support the government's goal of providing social protection that benefits the entire population. For poor people who may miss out on the conditional cash transfer program—homeless street families, people with disabilities, and indigenous people—Australia will assist the government to improve the effectiveness of an innovative, inclusive, new program.

Australia will also continue to support the development of social protection systems that are responsive to large shocks, especially in the Pacific. There have been two recent examples of Pacific countries topping up their social protection programs after a disaster—Fiji, after Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, and Tonga, after Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2018. These responses provide excellent examples of the benefit of using existing social protection systems to provide extra assistance during shocks.

## Gender equality fund and empowering women and girls

### Program highlights 2018–19 Budget Estimate



**PACIFIC**  
PACIFIC WOMEN  
SHAPING PACIFIC  
DEVELOPMENT

**\$14m**

2018–19



**GLOBAL**  
WOMEN  
ENTREPRENEURS  
FINANCE INITIATIVE

**\$13.5m**

2017–18 TO 2021–22



**SOUTH-EAST ASIA**  
INVESTING IN WOMEN

**\$9m**

2018–19

Contributes to:

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**



Australia's Gender Equality Fund (established in 2015–16) is driving stronger gender equality performance and results in Australian Aid. It supports major investments that promote gender equality and women's empowerment and demonstrate innovative practice, in line with these priorities of Australia's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy:

- » enhancing women's voice in decision-making, leadership and peace building
- » promoting women's economic empowerment
- » ending violence against women and girls.

The Fund also supports cutting-edge research and innovative initiatives in the private and civil society sectors, the results of which are leveraged to improve gender performance across the development program.

The White Paper is explicit in its acknowledgement of gender equality as a core Australian value and the empowerment of women as a top priority. There are compelling reasons for Australia to promote gender equality in our development program as well as across our foreign policy, economic diplomacy and development efforts, including:

- » ensuring women are included in all facets of economic, political and cultural life, which makes societies much more likely to be vibrant, inclusive, productive and stable
- » increasing women's participation in the economy, which strengthens the wellbeing of families and communities
- » advancing gender equality, which in the countries of Asia and the Pacific could add a 12 per cent increase over a business-as-usual GDP trajectory by 2025<sup>7</sup>
- » ensuring gender equality, which is essential for stability and security in our region.

Innovative programs supported by the Fund include several initiatives related to the generation of better gender statistics, an essential ingredient for the promotion of inclusive development and tracking progress in implementing the SDGs. These include:

- » UN Women's Making Every Woman and Girl Count (\$6.5 million, 2016–20), to increase the availability and accessibility of quality gender data
- » UNFPA's kNOWVAWdata program, to strengthening sustainable regional and national capacity by measuring, analysing and using data relating to violence against women (\$2.3 million, 2016–20).

Gender equality is a  
core Australian value  
White Paper

<sup>7</sup> McKinsey Global Institute, *The power of parity: Advancing women's equality in Asia Pacific*, April 2018





Building and Construction Trainer, Gael Waki, explains tile laying as part of training facilitated by the Australian-funded Vanuatu Skills Partnership in Malampa Province. Photo: DFAT

The Gender Equality Fund also facilitates Australia's work on women, peace and security issues in accordance with UNSCR 1325 and Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. This includes supporting UN Women's multi-donor Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund, an innovative partnership to support the crisis response and longer-term peace building efforts of women working on the frontlines of the world's most intractable conflicts.

The Fund will contribute to the Pacific Women program (2012–22; \$320 million over 10 years), which supports a range of women's leadership, women's economic empowerment, and violence against women programming across 14 Pacific countries.

#### **Case study: Influencing the private and public sectors to promote women's economic empowerment**

In 2018–19, Australian Aid's Investing in Women program continues to promote economic growth and business development through the advancement of gender equality in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam through a \$46 million (2016 to 2019) investment.

Core areas of Investing in Women's work are:

- » forming business coalitions and helping those businesses to make their workplace practices more inclusive on the basis that improving gender equality in the workplace will improve productivity and help businesses attract and retain the best talent
- » working with financial investors to increase the level of private investment flowing to women-led small and medium enterprises in South-East Asia
- » helping countries to remove legal and policy obstacles to women's full economic participation such as the work Investing in Women is currently undertaking with the Government of Vietnam to revise its labour laws.

Participating businesses in program countries are working towards and qualifying for certification on gender equality from EDGE, the leading business certification standard for gender equality. The program is also partnering with impact investment houses to spearhead gender lens investing in South-East Asia.

### Case study: Promoting gender equality in Asia through better factory conditions



Women in the textiles trade are often over worked and underpaid. Photo: DFAT

Across Asia, approximately 80 per cent of garment and footwear factory workers are women. Women who work in these sectors often do not earn enough for a decent standard of living or to meet their own and their families' basic needs. Women are also often frequently subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace and have little or no access to labour rights.

To support the improvement of labour standards in the garment and footwear factories, Australia is a significant donor to the Better Work program, a joint initiative of the International Labour Organization and the International Finance Corporation. In partnership with the private sector and trade unions, Better Work supports improving workplace standards, including wages, working hours, maternity leave and labour relations. The program is operating in 1300 factories that together employ more than 1.6 million workers in seven countries. Australia's funding for Better Work goes to projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam.

In the coming years, the program will focus increasingly on the promotion of gender equality in factories, including through addressing issues relating to sexual harassment in factories and examining the impact that enhancing women's economic empowerment has in women's lives beyond the factory door.

In addition, CARE Australia is, with local partners in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, targeting sexual harassment in factories, a key obstacle to women's economic empowerment that contributes to a culture of violence against women. CARE is working with female employees, workplace managers, private sector partners, industry and regional associations, and government agencies to improve workplace practices and protections on sexual harassment and improved policy settings at national level.

Recent research in Cambodia revealed that sexual harassment in factory settings is a regular occurrence, with nearly 1 in 3 female garment factory workers experiencing it in the workplace in the previous 12 months. Drawing on CARE's tested approaches for influencing behaviour change and social norms, this program will directly impact 200 000 people over three years, creating safer and more productive workplaces.

#### The Fund's multi-year commitments include:



**\$4m**

to support inclusive education approaches to promote education opportunities for all of PNG's children



**\$3.3m**

to build disability-inclusive health services in Tonga, including increasing access to mainstream health services, piloting community-based rehabilitation and increasing mental health support



**\$3m**

to include people with disabilities across the breadth of our human development work in Timor-Leste so that they can access and benefit from a range of vital services — including education, health and sanitation — alongside others in the community



**\$1.1m**

to strengthen the national disability-inclusive skills sector in Vanuatu to promote economic opportunities for all



**\$0.5m**

to build English skills for representatives of disabled people's organisations in Laos to assist them to more effectively advocate for their rights

## Disability-inclusive development

Disability inclusion is a priority for Australia's international engagement in development, humanitarian action and human rights. The White Paper, the Humanitarian Strategy 2016, and Australia's priorities for its 2018–2020 term on the Human Rights Council reflect this strong policy commitment. *Development for All 2015–2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program*, further articulates the Australian Government's commitment to playing a leadership role in disability-inclusive development so people with disabilities in developing countries can find pathways out of poverty and realise their full potential.

People with disabilities comprise an estimated 15 per cent of the global population and are disproportionately represented among the poorest people. They often face considerable barriers, including marginalisation and discrimination, to participate in development efforts. To be effective in reducing poverty, development must overcome these barriers to actively include and benefit people with disabilities.

In 2018–19, Australia will continue to Co-Chair the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network alongside the International Disability Alliance and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development. The GLAD Network brings together bilateral governments, multilateral agencies, foundations and private sector organisations, in collaboration with disabled people’s organisations and partner governments. GLAD advances the rights of people with disabilities and their full participation in international development and humanitarian action. We will continue to advance work in the three thematic focus areas: disability-inclusive education; humanitarian action; and social protection.

In 2018–19, Australian development support for disability-inclusive development will focus on:

- » improving disability-inclusiveness in mainstream Australian Aid investments and responding to recommendations made in 2017–18 by ODE
- » working with partners like the International Disability Alliance and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to advance disability inclusion in UN systems and programs
- » supporting disabled people’s organisations in developing countries to advocate for rights, including through the Pacific Disability Forum and Disability Rights Advocacy Fund
- » building global capacity to collect and analyse disability data through our disability data partnerships with the UN Washington Group on Disability Statistics, which will continue to deliver training and develop guidelines and resources for national statistics offices and other partners
- » bringing together national stakeholders, particularly governments and disabled people’s organisations, to effectively implement legislation, policies and programs on disability rights, through the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Vanuatu people with disabilities enjoy their rebuilt facility after it was destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Pam. Photo: DFAT



### Case study: Reducing inequalities for people living with disabilities in Indonesia



PUSPADI Bali staff I Made Gunung (r) holding a prosthetic leg with Australian volunteer Stephanie Fitzpatrick, at a workshop, Denpasar Timur, Bali. Photo: Harjono Djoyobisono, Australian Volunteers International

More than 11 million people with disabilities live in Indonesia. Reflecting Australia's commitment to advancing human rights and the SDGs, Australian volunteers are supporting disability inclusion in Indonesia through assignments in health, education, sports, disaster risk reduction, and private sector development.

Australian volunteer Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Communications and Social Media Specialist, is on an 18-month assignment with PUSPADI Bali, helping to combat stereotypes about people living with disabilities. PUSPADI Bali provides high-quality mobility aids, education and training and advocacy programs to people with physical disabilities in Bali and Eastern Indonesia. Stephanie supports the publication and dissemination of positive stories and designs effective communication strategies to support and promote the organisation, its programs, fundraising efforts, and advocacy campaigns for the protection and fulfilment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2018–19, Australian Volunteers will continue to support Australia's commitment to reducing poverty and inequality by supporting men, women and children living with disabilities to reach their full potential.

## Sport for development

The Australian Government is making a positive contribution to community development outcomes in the Indo-Pacific working in partnerships with sports and development actors.

### Case study: Women in News and Sport initiative

The Women in News and Sport initiative is an example of the Australian Government providing opportunities for the professional development of female sports journalists in the Indo-Pacific. The Australian Government is partnering with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation to increase the quality of coverage of women and women's sport in the region.

Since its launch in 2016, the initiative has delivered workshops, panel events and mentoring opportunities for coverage of significant sports events to more than 70 female sports journalists from Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Vietnam and the Pacific region.