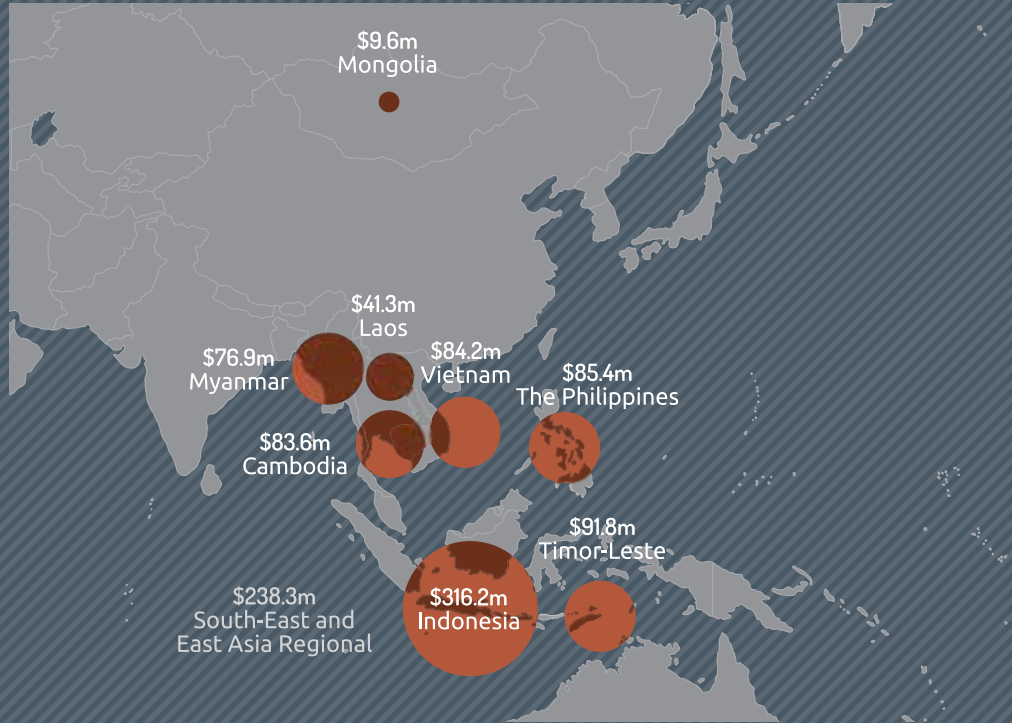


2018-19 TOTAL AUSTRALIAN ODA TO SOUTH-EAST AND EAST ASIA*

\$1.0 BILLION



Australian ODA by investment priority



Program highlights



MEKONG
MEKONG WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT PROJECT
(EMPOWER)

\$10.3m

2017-18 TO 2020-21



TIMOR-LESTE
POLICE
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

\$22m

2018-19 TO 2021-22



THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FOR INSTITUTIONS AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

\$36m

2018-19 TO 2023-24

* Total Australian ODA, from all agencies and programs, attributable to partner countries and regions in South-East and East Asia.

SOUTH-EAST AND EAST ASIA

South-East Asia lies at the heart of the Indo-Pacific region, a region we are working to keep peaceful and prosperous at a time of profound change.

The Australian Government will ensure Australia remains a leading economic and strategic partner for the countries of South-East Asia. Australia's development cooperation in the region contributes to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction which in turn supports an increasingly prosperous, outwardly-focused, stable and resilient region.

We are a longstanding and trusted development partner in South-East Asia. This region still hosts almost half of the world's poorest people, with 327 million people living in extreme poverty (defined by the World Bank as living on less than US\$1.90 a day). Across the region, growth is highly uneven. By reducing poverty, we empower millions of people to lead healthy, productive lives, and promote self-reliance. This benefits Australia and helps create a stable and prosperous region for us all.

Australia's development assistance in South-East Asia recognises that there is an important role for aid to support the transition of emerging market economies in the region. We deliver targeted advice and technical assistance that has a catalytic effect both on reform efforts and capacity development. For example, in Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, Australia has transitioned from traditional donor-recipient partnerships to economic partnerships, with an emphasis on investments that are tightly targeted, catalytic, and can leverage each partner government's own resources for even greater impact.

Australia has a vital interest in regional economic integration and unlocking the next stage of economic growth. We remain committed to supporting the work of the governments of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam on private sector development, including encouraging the private sector to take a lead role in driving sustainable growth.

In the education sector, we are improving access to quality education in Laos and Myanmar, making the education system more valuable for industry and addressing key policy skills gaps in Vietnam.

In the Philippines, the focus is on supporting improvements to basic education for children in Mindanao. In Indonesia, we are improving the efficiency and quality of the education system and equipping school teachers with the skills they need to prepare the next generation to enter the workforce. In Timor Leste, we are supporting job creation, increasing rural incomes, and helping more people become workforce ready.

Our aid enables us to help our neighbours during significant humanitarian crises. This includes those affected by the protracted crises in Kachin State, northern Shan State and Rakhine State in Myanmar, and those affected by the conflict situation in the Southern Philippines.

Australia Awards Scholarships continue to promote enduring people-to-people links between Australia and recipient South-East Asian countries. They also deepen capacity and productivity.

We will continue to cooperate on transnational challenges, such as reducing crime and people smuggling, countering violent extremism and maritime security capacity building in South-East Asia to keep our region safe and secure.

Australia is prioritising work to counter shared security challenges, support key drivers of economic growth, and support our South-East Asian neighbours to tackle inequality and maintain social stability. We continue to help the countries of our region to improve governance and advance human rights. Across all bilateral programs in South-East Asia, Australia prioritises empowering women and girls and supporting disability inclusive development.



1591
awardees

ACROSS 8 COUNTRIES
IN SOUTH-EAST AND
EAST ASIA

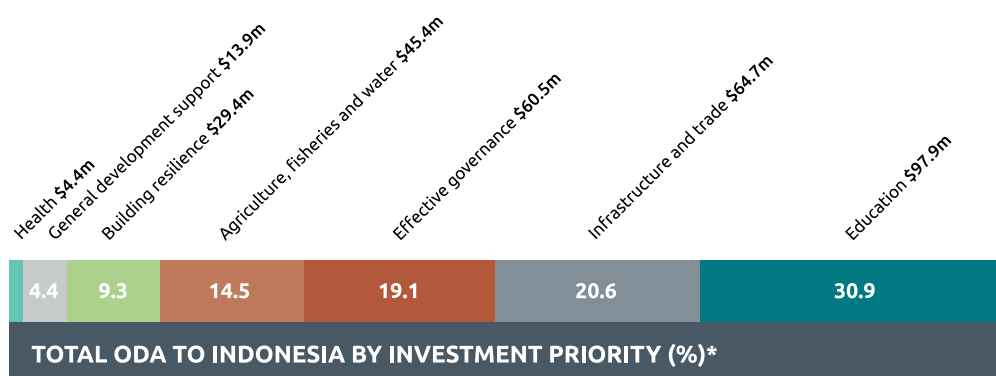


53%
females

2018
AUSTRALIA AWARDS
SCHOLARSHIPS

Indonesia

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	266.4
Regional	28.2
Global	15.4
Other Government Departments	6.3
Total ODA to Indonesia*	316.2



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Indonesia is one of Australia's most important bilateral relationships. Despite substantial development progress, Indonesia still faces significant challenges. More than 80 million Indonesians continue to live under the World Bank's \$3.20 per day poverty line—more than the rest of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) combined. Indonesia's economic growth has hovered at around 5 per cent in recent years, which is good by Group of 20 standards, but below the level necessary to accommodate the increasing number of Indonesians entering the job market, and well below the level of growth Indonesia will need to reach high-income status before its working age population starts to decline in 2030.

Australia works in an economic partnership to support Indonesia's growth and stability. We partner with Indonesian agencies to further the development of infrastructure, skills and institutions. Australia supports Indonesia's efforts to tackle inequality and maintain stability, promote tolerance and pluralism and counter violent extremism. Australia has long and deep experience working with Indonesia to provide policy and technical advice to address priority development challenges.

In 2018–19, Australia's development partnership with Indonesia will focus on:

- » boosting inclusive growth by building effective economic institutions and infrastructure, and promoting mutual benefits of international trade and investment. This includes promoting private sector growth and lowering the costs of undertaking business in Indonesia, particularly for infrastructure projects. We are continuing to increase smallholder farmer incomes by strengthening markets and innovation to increase productivity.
- » improving human development for a more productive and healthier society, enabling citizens to improve their futures and contribute to Indonesia's economic growth. We will focus on improving the efficiency and quality of the education system to equip school

teachers with the skills needed to prepare the next generation of the workforce. Through Australia Awards, we are building and maintaining a network of Indonesian leaders with specialist skills from Australian tertiary institutions. In addition, we are strengthening Indonesia's preparedness to tackle emerging health threats.

- » promoting an inclusive society through effective governance to ensure the poor and marginalised benefit from Indonesia's economic growth. This includes better targeting Indonesia's poverty reduction programs and protecting the poorest Indonesians from economic shocks. Our work focuses on increasing women and marginalised groups' participation in household, community and government decision-making.

Case study: Helping Indonesia to tackle inequality



Meeting for Woman Heads of Families under a Women's Empowerment Initiative, West Kalimantan. Photo: Hasan Tribuana

Indonesia has achieved substantial development progress and strong economic growth, but with this progress has come growing concerns about inequality. More than 80 million Indonesians live under the World Bank's \$3.20 per day poverty line.

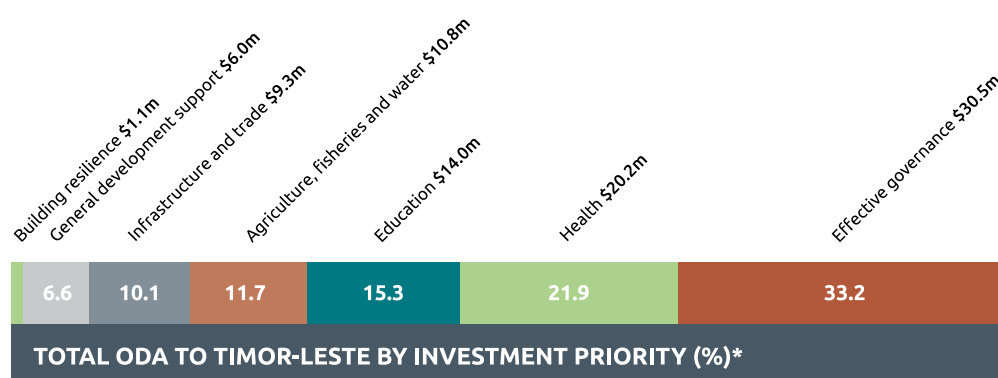
Eastern Indonesia, located closest to Australia, lags well behind the rest of the country on all key development indicators. Inequality not only hurts individuals, it hurts the economy as a whole and can threaten stability. For these reasons, tackling inequality is at the heart of Australia's economic partnership with Indonesia.

Inequality has many dimensions and our work with Indonesia is multifaceted. Through our economic governance programs, Australia is supporting Indonesia's ambitious plans to reform the tax system to help generate the revenue needed to deliver infrastructure and service improvements. At the same time, we are helping Indonesia to improve the coverage and quality of its social safety net to help lift and keep people out of poverty and provide the opportunity to contribute to economic growth.

Through our work in rural development we are helping to increase incomes for smallholder farmers by trialling innovative ways to increase agricultural productivity. We also work with Indonesia to address gender inequality and social exclusion by empowering women to become more involved in local politics and decision-making processes, and helping marginalised groups to access basic services.

Timor-Leste

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	73.0
Regional	5.0
Global	11.8
Other Government Departments	2.0
Total ODA to Timor-Leste*	91.8



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia and Timor-Leste are close neighbours, with a rich history and strong people-to-people links stretching back decades.

Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030 sets out its aspiration to become an upper middle-income country by 2030 and Australia, as Timor-Leste's largest development partner, is focused on helping them achieve this. Despite significant progress since independence, challenges remain. There is a real need for Timor-Leste to diversify its economy to support more sustainable growth and livelihoods. Two-thirds of Timor-Leste's 1.17 million population live on less than US\$2 a day, making it one of the poorest countries in the region.

Australia works with the government and people of Timor-Leste to support their priorities, focusing our efforts in three strategic areas—economy, people and society.

In 2018–19, Australian development support to Timor-Leste will focus on:

- » improving health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation, gender equality and disability outcomes of Timorese, as well as increasing access to social protection through the Partnership for Human Development
- » improving rural livelihoods through rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads through the Roads for Development Program and improving rural households food security, nutritional status and incomes through the Farming for Prosperity (Tomak) Program
- » ensuring Timor-Leste remains stable and free of conflict with the new phase of police development and capacity building in partnership with the AFP
- » strengthening governance and financial institutions to improve service delivery and policy making through the Governance for Development Program

- » supporting villagers to choose, design and build small-scale infrastructure projects, which benefit their livelihoods through the National Village Development Support Program
- » improving the economic empowerment, leadership and wellbeing of Timorese women and girls by reducing the high rates of violence against women and girls through prevention, improved access to services and judicial support through the Nabilan Program
- » improving training and employment opportunities for young Timorese through the Workforce Development Program and private sector growth through the Market Development Facility.

Case study: Health resource and supply chain mapping for the Asia Pacific region



Digital technology is playing a crucial role in improving access to medication. Photo: DFAT

Imagine if you could track the availability of life-saving medication across the Pacific with the click of a button. Given the geographic complexities of the Pacific, ensuring that each remote island has adequate medical supplies presents major challenges for the region.

Tupaia is a mobile-enabled web platform that makes information about the medical services and supplies available at health facilities digitally accessible, allowing health care decision makers to direct resources appropriately. Tupaia is bringing Pacific islands closer than ever before. With Australia's support, the mobile platform is seeking to track the availability of medical supplies across the entire Pacific region. Tupaia is supported by the Australian Development Accelerator, managed by DFAT's innovationXchange. Tupaia has already achieved success in the Pacific, expanding its coverage to six countries in the region since launching in 2017.

Recently, Tonga used Tupaia's real-time mobile data to assess damage to medical facilities from Cyclone Gita. Meanwhile in Timor-Leste, availability of essential medicines at the national level has improved by more than 20 per cent. These results will continue to improve as usage of the platform becomes more widespread. This initiative enables better health care services, therefore improving the prosperity and security of our region.

The Philippines

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	67.0
Regional	8.3
Global	6.5
Other Government Departments	3.6
Total ODA to the Philippines	85.4

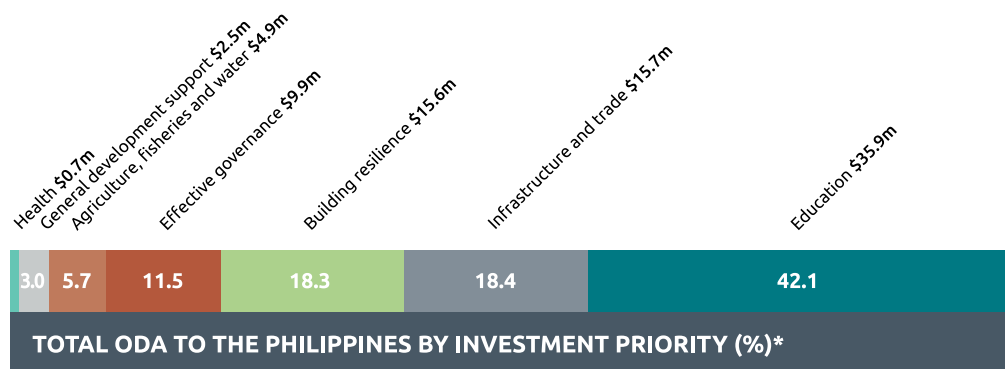


EDUCATION PATHWAYS TO PEACE IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS OF MINDANAO PROGRAM

\$90m

(2017–18 to 2026–27)

Contributing to resilience, stability, peace and prosperity in Mindanao by improving the quality of the education system. The program will focus on the most disadvantaged populations to address inequality in education. It will work with a broad range of stakeholders participating in the peace process to support improvements to basic education for children in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

The Philippines is one of Australia's longest-standing bilateral relationships. We have shared interests, supported by strong people-to-people links. Australia's interests in the Philippines will be pursued through assisting the Philippine Government with the development of a well-managed and stable government and a more prosperous, inclusive and open economy. A more open economy will not only benefit Filipinos, it will allow both nations to continue to pursue a mature economic partnership.

As noted in the White Paper, the conflict situation in the Southern Philippines is of pressing concern to both countries. Australia's national interest in regional stability and prosperity will require increased engagement with the Government of the Philippines on this issue and greater investment in programs in Mindanao, including to support the recovery of communities after the Marawi City conflict in 2017.

The Philippines has enjoyed sustained and rapid growth over the past several years, supported by strong remittance flows, a growing business process outsourcing sector, and increased government revenue. To reduce poverty and inequality and ensure that future growth is more inclusive, the Philippines Government will need to implement institutional reforms and a substantial program of infrastructure investment in the coming years. Supporting communities affected by conflict in the Southern Philippines will be critical for stability and improved development outcomes in the poorest region in the country.

Our partnership with the Philippines will focus on all elements of our trade, investment and development initiatives working together to promote growth.



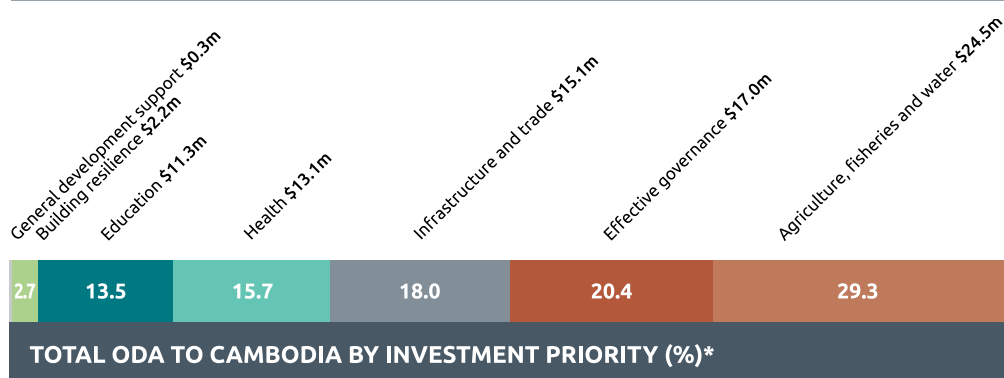
The Australian Embassy and The Asia Foundation, through the Coalitions for Change flagship project, implemented innovative strategies to introduce transformational land reform, including in land titling. Photo: The Asia Foundation

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

- » implementing a range of activities to support the peace process, long-term stability and development in the Southern Philippines, including:
 - building institutional capacity to implement the peace agreement
 - supporting development of strong local mechanisms to avert the escalation of violence and to address the drivers of radicalisation
 - supporting long-term stabilisation and recovery support for communities affected by violence and conflict
 - supporting the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, in particular the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325)
- » supporting reforms in education, tax, competition and land governance.

Cambodia

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	56.1
Regional	7.9
Global	16.6
Other Government Departments	3.0
Total ODA to Cambodia*	83.6



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Cambodia has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, but unequal distribution of economic gains means many Cambodians still struggle to access quality, affordable essential services. Australia will continue working with the Government of Cambodia to deliver programs to assist the people of Cambodia by improving infrastructure, increasing farmers' incomes and delivering better quality health and education outcomes. In line with the White Paper, Australia will promote sustainable development aimed at reducing poverty and improving gender equitable outcomes, including through strong engagement with the private sector.

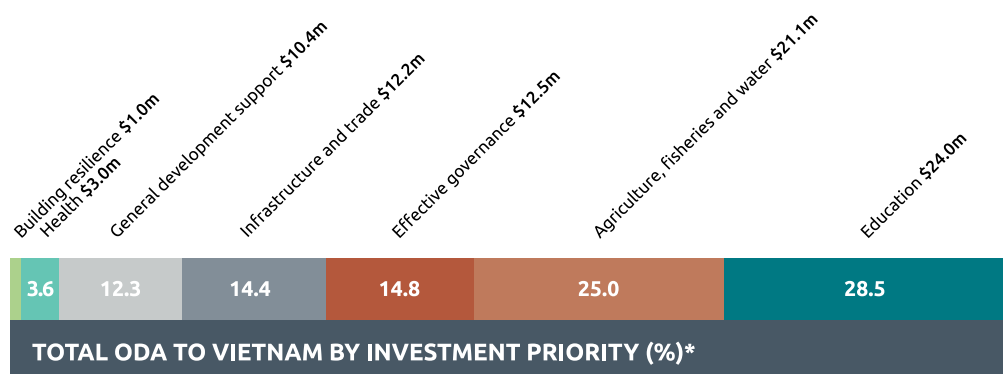
In 2018–19, Australian development support to Cambodia will focus on:

- » improving access to rural infrastructure, including electricity and treated piped water to households and businesses, rehabilitating rural roads and civil infrastructure damaged during severe flooding
- » increasing incomes for smallholder farmers, increasing Cambodia's trade in milled rice and other crops and building new irrigation canals for farmer communities
- » strengthening Cambodia's health financing system to improve efficiency and quality of care, in line with Australia's Health for Development Strategy 2015–2020, and addressing poor reproductive, maternal and neonatal health for vulnerable women
- » improving the sustainable delivery of quality services to women experiencing violence and to people living with a disability

- » enhancing our Australia Awards Scholarships through a new agreement to award both long and short-course scholarships to the best and brightest Cambodian students to study in Australia, focused on providing equal opportunity for women, people with disabilities and people from the provinces
- » promoting women’s economic empowerment and extending the reach of sexual and reproductive health services where there is unmet need, through activities working with midwives and local women entrepreneurs.

Vietnam

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	58.4
Regional	10.4
Global	10.2
Other Government Departments	5.2
Total ODA to Vietnam	84.2



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia and Vietnam’s partnership extends across political, security, economic and people-to-people activities. Vietnam is one of our fastest growing trade partners and is central to regional security in South-East Asia.

Vietnam has recorded strong economic growth of more than 6 per cent per year over the past three years, and the economy has great potential if Vietnam can harness innovation and increase the uptake of technology. Growth currently is constrained by low productivity, poor infrastructure and a lack of competition in key areas of the economy. Inequality, particularly for women and ethnic minorities, remains significant and 9 million people continue to live below the national poverty line.

Reflecting our maturing economic partnership, we will continue to work with Vietnam to capitalise upon its significant domestic resources and foreign investment, and support its efforts to enter a new phase of economic development.

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

- » encouraging the private sector to take a lead role in driving sustainable growth and promoting better resource allocation through more efficient and competitive markets
- » making Vietnam’s education system more valuable for industry and addressing key policy skills gaps in government through our skills development program, including promoting a Women in Leadership agenda
- » advancing the economic and social benefits of gender equality through our work to promote women’s economic empowerment.

Case study: Cao Lanh Bridge



Cao Lanh Bridge, Vietnam. Photo: DFAT

The Mekong Delta is the third largest industrial centre in Vietnam and contributes 70 per cent of Vietnam’s agricultural and fishery exports. However, poor road networks and vulnerability to natural disasters have prevented agricultural and industrial investments that would lead to increased economic activity and improved living standards for local communities.

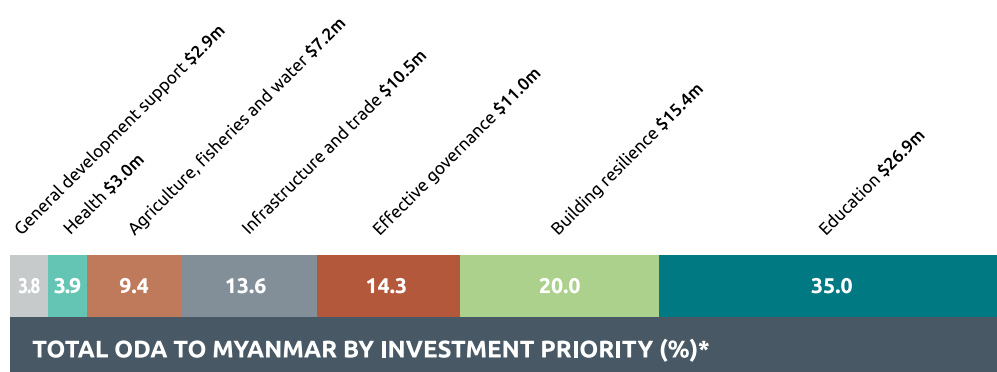
To address this, Australia has funded the design and construction of the Cao Lanh Bridge that will replace slow ferries and improve 25 kilometres of interconnecting roads. The bridge will create a crucial new transport link that will spur economic development by connecting the 18 million people in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta to regional markets. Five million people are expected to directly benefit from the bridge, with 170 000 using it daily. This project will link producers in the Mekong Delta to markets in Ho Chi Minh City and provide a link to Thailand through Cambodia on highways being upgraded by the ADB with Australian support.

The Cao Lanh Bridge is the largest single Australian Aid activity in mainland South-East Asia (\$160 million, 2011–18). Our support has included a focus on mitigating risks by, for example: ensuring the bridge can withstand the impacts of climate change; providing support to reduce land acquisition and resettlement impacts; and reducing vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and trafficking women and children.

The Cao Lanh Bridge builds on Australia’s previous investment in the My Thuan Bridge that is still known throughout Vietnam as the ‘Australian Bridge’.

Myanmar

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	42.1
Regional	11.9
Global	18.5
Other Government Departments	4.4
Total ODA to Myanmar	76.9



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

The Myanmar Government is undertaking complex economic and political reforms and pursuing a nationwide peace process after five decades of military rule. Many people are internally displaced in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states because of years of conflict and outbreaks of intercommunal tension. In Rakhine State, human rights abuses in 2017 led to large numbers of people fleeing to Bangladesh, creating the region's current largest humanitarian crisis. The situation underlines the need for Australia to remain engaged on human rights issues as well as development and humanitarian assistance. Our efforts in Myanmar will continue to promote and protect the international rules-based order in line with the White Paper, supporting stability, prosperity and global cooperation.

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

- » promoting peace and stability by supporting the nationally led peace process, peacebuilding, inter-communal harmony and social cohesion activities, which will also help implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda
- » strengthening democratic institutions including through support to parliament, civil service reform, rule of law centres and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission
- » delivering humanitarian assistance, including to displaced people in Rakhine, northern Shan and Kachin states
- » improving access to quality education, including through the Myanmar Education Quality Improvement Program, and assisting the Myanmar Government to promote access to education through the School Grants and Stipends Program
- » promoting inclusive economic growth, including through regulatory reform that supports investment and fiscal transparency and promotes women's economic empowerment.

Case study: Promoting inclusion of small and medium enterprises in Myanmar's tourism industry



These initiatives shows tourists the Myanmar way of life. Photos: Australian Volunteers International

In 2018–19, the Business Partnerships Platform (BPP) will continue to build Australia's collaboration with business and civil society in addressing development challenges.

For example, Australian Volunteers International partnered with global tourism company Intrepid Travel through the BPP to develop the Sustainable Tourism Hub in Myanmar. The Hub is providing business advisory services, funding and skills development to small and medium sized tourism enterprises, focusing on people who would otherwise face significant barriers to participation in the tourism market in Myanmar, such as women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. This partnership is designed to meet increasing demand for sustainable, local experiences in the Myanmar tourism market.

Through the BPP, Australian Volunteers International and Intrepid Travel have formed a collaborative partnership to improve tourism suppliers' skills to boost economic growth to meet consumer demand. The initiative has trained 28 candidates in sustainable tourism management and supported 10 businesses to develop their tourism products to take to market. Successful products include bags and jewellery made from recycled materials, a demonstration of traditional tea making at a tea shop in Myanmar and cooking classes that employ housewives to teach tourists how to cook traditional home-cooked meals.

Laos

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	20.6
Regional	7.4
Global	9.3
Other Government Departments	4.0
Total ODA to Laos	41.3



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia and Laos share a strong and diverse relationship underpinned by deepening economic ties, community links and development cooperation. Standards of living have improved for many, but the country still faces significant development challenges. The benefits of economic growth have not been shared equally, particularly in rural areas, and some social development indicators remain weak. Key development challenges include limited access to quality education services, skills shortages, and constraints to the development of the private sector.

In 2018–19, our development assistance will focus on:

- » improving access to basic education for disadvantaged girls and boys through increasing student participation, improving the quality of teachers and teaching materials, and improving school infrastructure
- » developing Laos' human resource and institutional capacities through our scholarships and training program, and through activities to promote women's leadership
- » promoting broad-based economic growth through removing regulatory barriers to trade and investment, improving the business environment, and improving access to finance for Laos' poor.

Consistent with the White Paper, the focus of Australia's development assistance to Laos is:

- » contributing to global efforts to reduce poverty, alleviate suffering and promote inclusive and sustainable development
- » building our influence through education, including the Australia Awards.



BASIC EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCESS IN LAOS

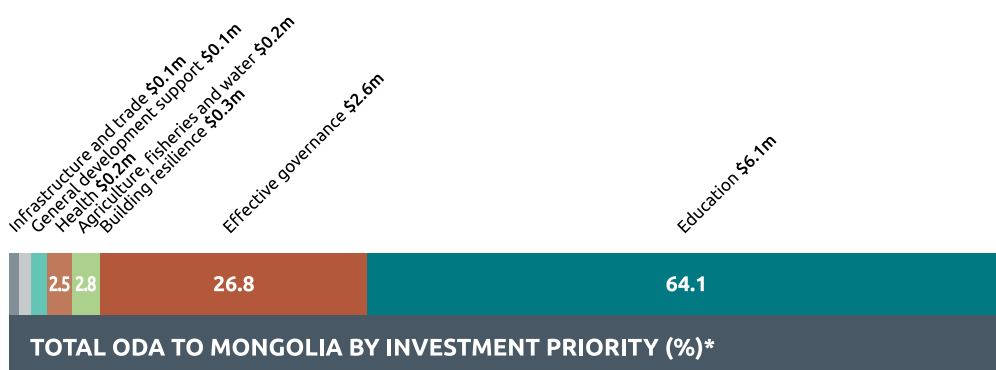
\$64m

\$48.9 MILLION FROM AUSTRALIA OVER FIVE YEARS (TO BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 2020), CO-FUNDED WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION AND USAID

Strengthen national education systems (including primary curriculum), improve quality of teaching and targeted support for educationally disadvantaged areas of Laos (focused on ethnic children, girls and children with disabilities).

Mongolia

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	5.9
Regional	2.1
Global	1.4
Other Government Departments	0.2
Total ODA to Mongolia	9.6



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

The opening of the Embassy in Ulaanbaatar in 2015 was an important milestone in the bilateral relationship, recognising that Australia is an important investor and a source of expertise in the extractives sector, and that Australia and Mongolia share commitment to democracy and interests in an open, rules-based regional order.

The performance of Mongolia's economy is driven by its mining industry, particularly the production of copper, gold and coal, with the mining sector accounting for approximately 20 per cent of GDP and almost 90 per cent of exports. As mining output increases and commodity prices improve, the mining sector, if managed well, will lead to increased economic growth and a reduction in poverty.

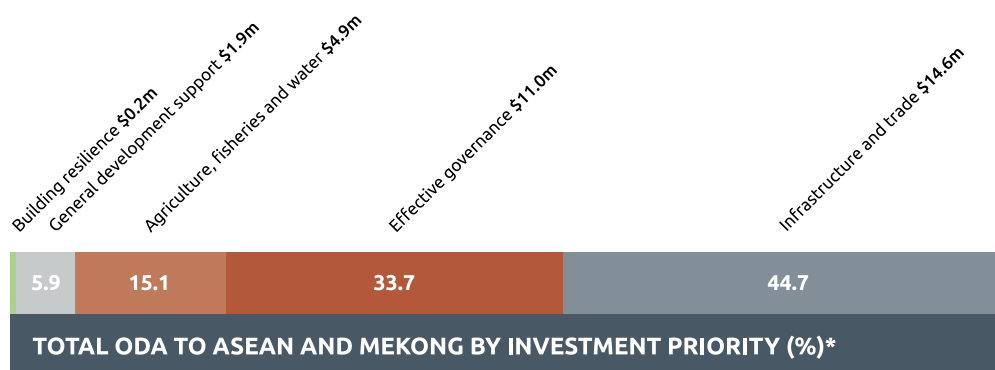
In this context, Australia's development assistance promotes inclusive, well-governed, efficient public and private sectors that enable Mongolia to benefit from resource-driven growth. The development program provides Australian expertise in technical assistance, tertiary education and resources governance, and is aligned with the development objectives identified by the Mongolian Government.

In 2018–19, Australian development support to Mongolia will focus on ensuring that:

- » Mongolia's government, civil society and private sector personnel have the skills and qualifications to deliver better services and drive economic growth
- » Mongolians are benefiting from a well-governed mining industry.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Mekong

2018–19 Total ODA allocation: \$32.6 million



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Australia’s ASEAN and Mekong programs support the shared vision of ASEAN Member States to realise a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible community in South-East Asia.

The 2018 Australia-ASEAN Special Summit marked the start of a new era within the signing of The Sydney Declaration. The Declaration details the vision of the ASEAN-Australia partnership and our shared commitment to elevate cooperation. During the Summit, leaders agreed to boost trade, investment and business links between Australia and ASEAN, with new initiatives on smart cities, infrastructure development, economic policy cooperation, digital standards, education exchanges, counter-terrorism and security cooperation.

The ASEAN and Mekong Program’s economic investments focus on: enhancing regional economic integration and connectivity; improving access to financial services for low-income men and women in ASEAN; supporting entrepreneurship, innovation and economic policy making; and building the capacity of women’s organisations to promote women’s economic rights. Australian Aid works to improve the sustainable management of shared water resources for greater food, energy and water security.

Our flagship counter-trafficking and safe migration investments support effective regional responses to cross-border governance challenges, human rights issues and stable and inclusive growth. This work has supported the development and implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and renewed regional and global efforts to combat trafficking and modern slavery.

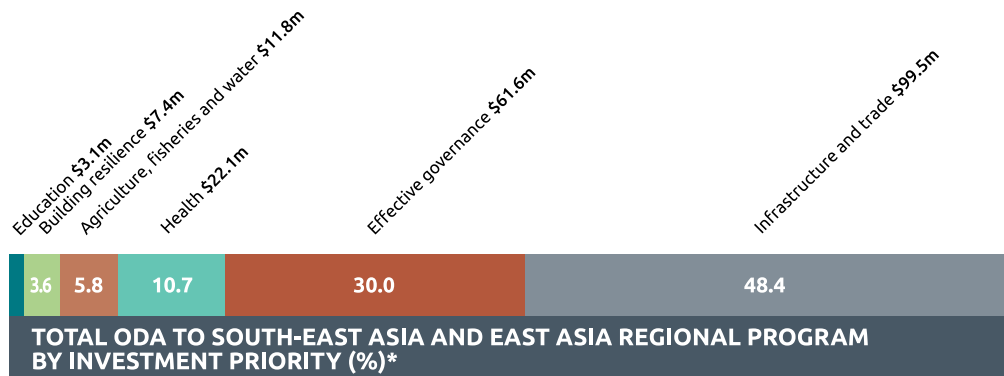
In 2018–19, Australia’s ASEAN and Mekong Program will, among other programs, support the:

- » Greater Mekong Water Resources Program initiatives, which continue to play a significant role in support of more equitable, inclusive, transparent and effective water resources management across the Mekong sub-region. Effective governance of water resources is critical to the region’s water, food and energy security. The program aims to maximise benefits and minimise negative transboundary social and environmental impacts of water infrastructure projects.

- » new ASEAN-Australia Counter-Trafficking initiative, which will build on our 15-year history of supporting improved criminal justice sector responses to human trafficking in ASEAN, including through our current investment in the Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking In Persons. This new 10-year investment will continue to support implementation of the ASEAN Convention and enhance victim rights protection.
- » ASEAN-Australia Digital Standards initiative, which will provide a framework for Australia and ASEAN countries to cooperate in developing, adopting and using international standards that promote digital trade and support inclusive economic growth in the region.

South-East and East Asia Regional

2018–19 Total ODA allocation: \$14.6 million



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

'Bolder and sustained collective actions needed.'

'Deepen regional economic integration.'

'Realise the full potential of the business sector, particularly the small and medium-sized enterprises.'

November 2017,
APEC Leaders Meeting

Australia has a clear national interest in a prosperous, peaceful and secure South-East Asia in which countries cooperate to resolve common problems. Our regional engagement is deep and covers cooperation in development, economic integration, health security, governance, security, culture, trade and education.

Australia's South-East and East Asia Regional program works with 21-member economies of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), which accounts for more than half of global GDP and more than 2.8 billion people. APEC partners account for more than two-thirds of Australia's total trade in goods and services. Australia's prosperity depends on open trade and investment.

In 2018–19, Australian development support for APEC-related activities in the South-East and East Asia Regional program will focus on initiatives that respond to the calls made by APEC Leaders as well as development priorities outlined in the White Paper. This will involve delivering practical capacity building projects that help economies to resist the adoption of protectionist policies, keep markets open and free, and promote trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation.



Technical and vocational training for out-of-school youth through Australia's Basic Education Assistance for Muslim Mindanao project. Photo: DFAT

Targeted APEC-related development work will include:

- » progressing structural reforms to boost productivity and strengthen inclusive economic development and growth
- » implementing individual and collective actions to drive greater liberalisation of the services sector
- » advancing policy and practical efforts that draw on digital technologies to boost trade and inclusive economic growth
- » making economic growth more inclusive by promoting the development of remote areas
- » strengthening women's participation in the economy, including by supporting their role in international trade and export markets
- » maintaining the active involvement of business in developing human resources and promoting job creation.