




INVESTMENT PRIORITIES AND CROSS-REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Infrastructure, trade facilitation and competitiveness

<p>SOUTHEAST ASIA AUSTRALIA INDONESIA PARTNERSHIP FOR PROMOTING RURAL INCOMES THROUGH AGRICULTURAL MARKETS</p>  <p>Supporting inclusive economic growth</p> <hr/> <p>\$95m 2018–19 TO 2022–23</p>	<p>SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION</p> <p>Addressing the low levels of intra-regional trade and poor connectivity in the region</p>  <hr/> <p>\$30m 2013–14 TO 2021–22</p>	<p>PACIFIC PACIFIC AGREEMENT ON CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS</p> <p>Increasing business opportunities in the Pacific</p>  <hr/> <p>\$23m 2019–20 TO 2024–25</p>	<p>Program highlights 2019–20 Budget Estimate</p>
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Program	2019–20 Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	326.6
Southeast and East Asia	256.9
South and West Asia	14.2
The Middle East and Africa	1.1
Global*	131.9
Total ODA to Infrastructure, trade facilitation and competitiveness	730.7

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

Infrastructure

In 2019–20, the Australian Government will establish the new Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific. The Facility will boost our support for infrastructure development in Pacific countries and Timor-Leste. It will provide loans combined with grants to support the development of high-priority infrastructure such as telecommunications, energy, transport and water. Australia is also directly supporting faster and more reliable internet connectivity in PNG and Solomon Islands through the construction of an undersea telecommunications cable system linking all three countries.

Australia continues to support infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific through partnerships with the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the World Bank, and by working closely with key partners such as Japan and the United States. Through these partnerships, Australia is mobilising additional private sector funding for jointly-managed infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific and for work to strengthen the pipeline of investment-ready projects.

Contributes to:

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p> 	<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 

Case Study: Businesses and communities thriving together: Mobile banking for the poor in Vietnam



Women in rural Vietnam receive SMS bank statements. Photo: The Asia Foundation Vietnam

Approximately two thirds of Vietnam's 90 million people remain disconnected from formal banking. For rural areas, the lack of affordable access to financial services is a major constraint to development. From 2016 to 2018, under the Business Partnerships Platform, Australia partnered with the Vietnam Bank for Social Policies, The Asia Foundation and MasterCard to establish the first mobile banking platform for low income Vietnamese people.

The partnership exceeded planned targets, reaching 4.9 million clients (51 per cent women) across 63 bank branches using SMS notifications. Over the first phase of the initiative 90 per cent of customers said they valued the service highly and were interested in continuing to receive account information by SMS. By improving mobile banking technology and expanding its availability, the initiative reduced the cost of banking and provided bank clients with access to diversified services, increasing the bank's competitiveness over the longer-term.

Commencing in 2019, Australia will support a second phase of the project with a focus on financial inclusion and commercial viability. It will also support women's economic empowerment, particularly women-led microenterprises, enhancing women's knowledge and ICT skills and identifying the most effective approaches for responding to female customer's needs.

Trade facilitation and competitiveness

The Australian Government's *Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments* (2015) establishes a framework to ensure that our aid-for-trade investments are effective, meet the needs of developing country partners and align with Australia's interests. The Strategy also outlines how Australia will meet one of the 10 strategic targets of its development program, which is to increase aid-for-trade expenditure to 20 per cent of the aid budget by 2020.

In 2019–20, Australia will continue aid-for-trade investments that build the capacity of developing countries to engage in the global trading system. Investments will focus on:

- » supporting the multilateral trading system as, Sustainable Development Goal 17 calls for a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organisation
- » partnering with the Global Alliance on Trade Facilitation and the World Bank, to help developing countries reduce the time and costs to trade
- » training women entrepreneurs in the Indo-Pacific, together with the Export Council of Australia, to develop export capabilities and ensure women benefit from expanded trade
- » e-commerce can expand access to new markets and boost international competitiveness, particularly for small businesses. Australia will focus on building e-commerce capacity and capability in the region by establishing a demand-driven e-commerce platform. Grants of up to \$500,000 over three years will be provided to organisations with local solutions for stimulating and building e-commerce activity in developing countries.



Aid for
trade

TARGET MET

\$949m

23 PER CENT
2019–20

\$1b

24 PER CENT
2018–19

Case study: Aid-for-trade supporting women's economic empowerment

Trade provides opportunities for women in developing countries to participate in the workforce. For example, more than 75 per cent of Bangladesh's four million garment export industry workers are women who have entered the labour market for the first time, and mostly from poor families. More employment for women can have strong intrinsic value in reducing discrimination and enabling protection of women's rights.




Aid-for-trade can help to ensure that the benefits of women's workplace participation are fully realised, for example through better wages and working conditions. The *Strategy for Australia's Aid for Trade Investments* identifies women's economic empowerment as a key aid-for-trade priority. This is reinforced in *Australia's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy*, which commits to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into aid-for-trade investments.

To give effect to this priority, Australia is partnering with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to improve labour standards and reduce gender discrimination in more than 1,500 garment factories in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam. Together, the factories employ more than 2.2 million workers, about 75 per cent of whom are women.

Working with governments, unions and employer groups, the ILO undertakes in-factory assessments. It also provides advisory services and training for management and workers to improve awareness and practice of international workplace standards.

This work has had a significant positive impact. It has reduced the gender pay gap by 17 per cent in participating factories. Factory workers report higher morale, lower rates of abuse and exploitation, fewer instances of sexual harassment, and improved health and education outcomes for their children. At the same time, participating factories have increased their profitability by 25 per cent, driven by larger orders from buyers who have greater confidence in factory operations.

Agriculture, fisheries and water

Program highlights 2019–20 Budget Estimate		
 <p>INDO-PACIFIC MARKET DEVELOPMENT FACILITY—PHASE 2 Stimulating investment, business innovation and regulatory reform</p> <p>\$77.4m 2018–19 TO 2021–22</p>	 <p>SOUTH ASIA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO Addressing issues of water, food, and energy security</p> <p>\$46.7m 2015–16 TO 2019–20</p>	 <p>PACIFIC MARSHALL ISLANDS EBEYE WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION Increasing access to clean water and sanitation</p> <p>\$4m 2016–17 TO 2021–22</p>



	2019–20 Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	88.7
Southeast and East Asia	99.1
South and West Asia	43.7
The Middle East and Africa	33.9
Global*	73.0
Total ODA to agriculture, fisheries and water**	338.3

* Includes core contributions to multilateral organisations and ODA not attributable to particular countries or regions.
** Difference in values due to rounding.

Australia supports food security and efficient water management internationally through partnerships with government, the private sector and civil society organisations.

In 2019–20, Australia's development assistance in the agriculture, fisheries and water sectors will focus on:

- » targeting increased water use efficiency in urban and rural communities through a global water scarcity initiative
- » improving water management in the Indo-Pacific region through a renewed four-year mandate and funding for the Australian Water Partnership
- » helping conserve the genetic diversity of food crops in gene and seed banks with a focus on the Pacific, a highly biodiverse and climate vulnerable region
- » supporting improvements in agri-food systems that will lead to better nutrition outcomes and greater resilience to extreme climate events and climate change
- » encouraging private sector-led inclusive agricultural development in low-income countries, especially in the Indo-Pacific region
- » advocating for more open agricultural trading systems, through international and regional organisations
- » assisting communities that rely on healthy coastal ecosystems to adapt to the impacts of climate change, sustainably manage coastal fish stocks and develop alternative livelihoods where fish stocks are under pressure.

Case study: Water for 37 million in Myanmar's main river

Managing the waters of the Ayeyarwady, the longest river in Myanmar, is critical to the wellbeing of the 37 million people (70 per cent of the country's population) who depend on the river for household water, irrigation, hydropower and navigation. As Myanmar emerges from its long period of isolation, the Government's National Water Resources Committee is giving high priority to developing a Basin Master Plan that will guide river development.

Through the Australian Water Partnership, Australia is assisting the Myanmar Government to plan the sustainable use of the river for economic development while protecting the ecosystem of the Ayeyarwady Basin that covers 60 per cent of Myanmar's landmass. Twenty-two Australian partners worked with the Water Resources Committee to finalise a State of the Basin Assessment in 2018. This year, the Australian Water Partnership will help identify pollution hot-spots in the river, draw up plans to reduce the pollution, map the groundwater supplies in the dry zone, and identify the key wetlands and fish habitats that must be protected.

Australia will also continue to support the Myanmar Young Water Professional Program in 2019–20. Training programs will help the Water Resources Committee to develop the skills to manage the Ayeyarwady's waters through drought and floods, for the people of Myanmar.

The Ayeyarwady River is the lifeblood for 37 million Myanmar people. It is a cultural, economic and environmental resource. Photo: DFAT



Effective governance

Program highlights 2019–20 Budget Estimate



Contributes to: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



	2019–20 Budget Estimate \$m
Program	
Pacific	359.1
Southeast and East Asia	256.0
South and West Asia	70.2
The Middle East and Africa	6.3
Global*	101.4
Total ODA to effective governance	793.0

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

Australia invests in building systems and institutions that promote stability, inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia prioritises investments in governance because where governance is poor, development outcomes are also poor.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance will support effective governance by:

- » supporting the conduct of credible electoral processes throughout the Indo-Pacific region, including in Indonesia, Myanmar, Nauru and Tuvalu
- » working with partner governments to open up and improve investment settings, create regulatory frameworks that are clear and stable, increase domestic revenue mobilisation, and promote sound fiscal management, through programs such as the Australia-Indonesia Economic Cooperation Partnership, the Governance for Development program in Timor-Leste, and the Solomon Islands Governance Program
- » supporting conflict resolution and violence reduction through peace support programs in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Myanmar
- » working with governments, civil society and businesses to improve the ability of Indo-Pacific countries to reduce their corruption risks, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and prosecute and combat corruption, for example through support to the World Bank and UNDP's joint Stolen Asset Recovery initiative

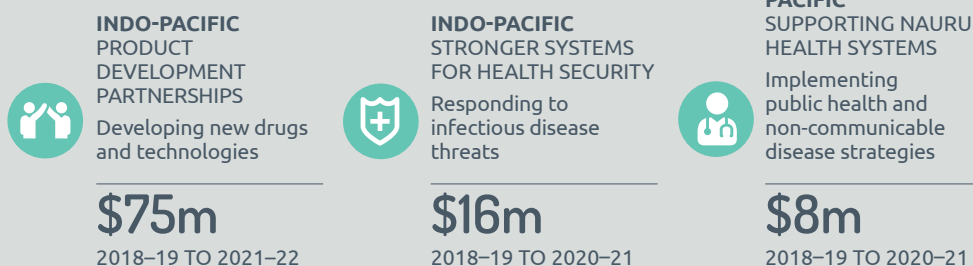
- » funding the UNDP, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank to build the capacity of public and private sectors in our region to implement their obligations under the UN Convention Against Corruption
- » supporting Transparency International's Indo-Pacific chapters to maintain public scrutiny of activities susceptible to corruption, such as construction, fishing, forestry and mining, and Constituency Development Funds across Melanesia
- » strengthening community safety by increasing access to, and the quality and efficiency of law and justice services in the Pacific, with a focus on vulnerable groups. For example by supporting the Justice Services and Stability for Development Program (\$90 million, 2016–19) in PNG, which has delivered training to more than 1,200 Village Courts and Land Mediators
- » promoting women's empowerment, such as in Fiji, where Australia supported the femLINKpacific project which works with 349 women leaders representing 31,180 network members, including people with disability and the LGBTIQI community, to influence national disaster management processes
- » continuing to enhance global efforts and leading advocacy towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions, including focusing on measuring peace in the Pacific.

In 2019–20, Australia will continue to enhance its capacity to support improved governance in extractive industries in developing countries including by:

- » playing a lead role in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and the Extractives Global Programmatic Support Multi-Donor Trust Fund to promote the open and accountable management of natural resources
- » promoting and strengthening norms and standards in the extractives sector consistent with transparency, good governance and sustainability, including through the:
 - Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which targets illegal trafficking in conflict diamonds
 - Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, which seek to ensure human rights obligations are adhered to in the provision of physical security around extractives sites
- » assisting resource rich developing countries to transform their oil, mining and gas resources into long-term economic and social development gains by drawing on Australia's domestic experience and global reputation for good extractives governance.

Health

Program highlights 2019–20 Budget Estimate



Contributes to:

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	211.9
Southeast and East Asia	64.1
South and West Asia	22.2
The Middle East and Africa	7.0
Global*	240.6
Total ODA to health	545.8

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

Health is a cornerstone of economic growth and social development.⁸ Ensuring that all people can access the health services they need—without facing financial hardship—is key to improving the wellbeing of a country’s population.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance to the health sector will focus on:

- » Strengthening health systems in the Indo-Pacific region so more people can access the health services they need. We will, for example:
 - assist countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific to strengthen their health systems and ensure essential disease and immunisation programs are sustainably financed, managed and support health service delivery
 - expand access to family planning services in the Indo-Pacific to reduce unmet need for family planning
 - continue to support The Pacific Community to provide high-quality technical assistance on non-communicable disease prevention and control, communicable disease surveillance and response, and clinical services.
- » Addressing regional health security risks through the Indo-Pacific Health Security Initiative. This includes investing in:
 - national and regional-level capacity building activities in disease surveillance, diagnostic capacity and outbreak response, and support for improvements in the regulation of new drugs and diagnostics for infectious diseases

⁸ WHO, High-Level Commission Health, Employment and Economic Development, 2016

- enhancing links between human health and animal health to control zoonotic disease threats and improve systems for biosecurity
 - supporting the development of vaccines, drugs, diagnostics and other disease prevention and control technologies for the benefit of the Indo-Pacific region
 - increasing capacity to detect and contain disease outbreaks by investing in field epidemiology training, including through the ASEAN-Australia Health Security Fellowships.
- » Maximising effectiveness of our global health partnerships and positions on issues such as universal health coverage and sexual and reproductive health and rights, through:
- promoting and advocating universal health coverage and sexual health and reproductive health and rights relevant in advancing the health goal (Sustainable Development Goal 3), especially highlighting the needs of the Indo-Pacific region
 - global partnerships with multilateral health organisations including Gavi, The Global Fund, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO)
 - the Water for Women Initiative, to improve water, sanitation and hygiene services for almost three million people, focusing on changing behaviours and attitudes to give women greater access to water and control over local and household water management.

Case study: Better access to quality health care services in Cambodia

Australia is contributing to make sure all Cambodians can access quality health care. Sustained health investment from the Royal Government of Cambodia and development partners, including Australia, has led to significant improvement in key health outcomes in recent years. For example, 79 per cent of Cambodian women gave birth in health facilities in 2017, up from 10 per cent in 2000. But there is still further to go.

Poor health increases many Cambodian families' vulnerability to slipping back into poverty. It also holds back economic growth by lowering workforce participation and reducing workers' productivity.

Australia has been supporting the poorest Cambodians to access free health care for more than 10 years through the Cambodia's Health Equity Fund (HEF) and Identification of the Poor Households Program (IDPoor).

The HEF program pays for the costs of health care on behalf of the poorest households and is financed by the Royal Government of Cambodia and development partners. Its purpose is to increase the use of public health facilities by the poor by removing financial barriers to access, and in doing so, reduce the financial impact of serious illness or accident on poor households.

A person is eligible for HEF-subsidised care if they have an Equity Card issued through the Royal Cambodian Government's IDPoor, the national poverty identification system. IDPoor uses a community-based process to systematically identify poor households nationwide.

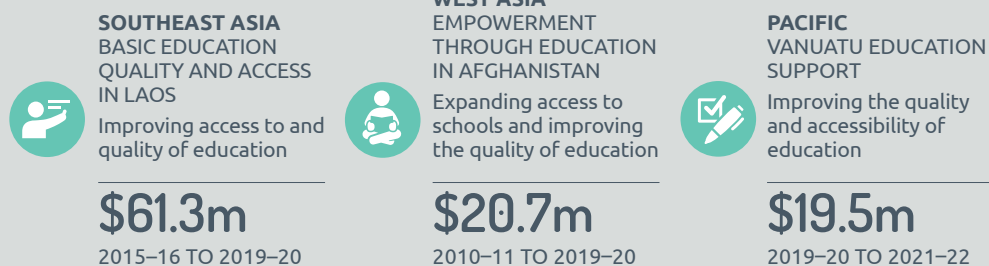
HEF and IDPoor complement Australian-supported reforms to health care financing in Cambodia, which are improving the quality of health services by introducing performance benchmarks, auditing processes and flexibility to respond to local needs.

Kol, a card holder with a disability, said that before IDPoor he would not bother going to the hospital because his family did not have the money for fees. 'Now with the card, we don't hesitate to go when we need to,' says Kol.

By supporting programs that benefit everyday people like Kol, Australia is strengthening resilience in our neighbourhood and building on our reputation as a longstanding and trusted development partner of the Cambodian people.

Education

Program highlights 2019–20 Budget Estimate



Contributes to:

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



	2019–20
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	229.2
Southeast and East Asia	215.8
South and West Asia	66.4
The Middle East and Africa	43.8
Global*	63.9
Total ODA to education	619.1

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

Education is one of the best investments individuals and societies can make. Education makes people healthier and more productive, increases their incomes and job opportunities and gives them more control over their lives.

As technology leads to rapid changes in economies in our region, Australia is supporting governments to make transformative investments in learning from the earliest ages, through school and beyond to give people the critical skills they will need to adapt to change.

In 2019–20, Australian development assistance for the education sector will focus on:

- » supporting the most marginalised in society, including girls, ethnic minorities and children with disability, to access a quality education
- » assisting countries to improve their measurement of learning outcomes to reliably inform actions to improve education outcomes
- » investing in teacher development including through multi-year studies in Laos, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu
- » improving skills through building the capacity of the technical and vocational training sectors to prepare students for employment locally and regionally, including through the Australia Pacific Training Coalition, the flagship program in the Pacific
- » encouraging innovation and the use of technology to encourage more children to learn to read by working with the United States Agency for International Development and World Vision on the All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development initiative
- » addressing education in emergencies, including through the global initiative Education Cannot Wait, to ensure children displaced by conflict, who may spend many years living in camps or host communities, are able to continue their education.

Case study: Vanuatu Skills Partnership—A skills system for inclusive prosperity

Australia is committed to supporting Vanuatu's efforts to strengthen its economy through skills development, to build a more productive and capable national workforce.

Vanuatu has the lowest formal sector employment rate in the Pacific, with around 70 per cent of the workforce involved in informal sector activities such as subsistence farming and handicraft production. Jobs in the formal economy are primarily in the tourism sector, which contributes up to 65 per cent of Vanuatu's GDP.

The Australian-funded Vanuatu Skills Partnership is supporting the development of a national skills system that better links skills training to economic outcomes. Given the large informal economy, the Partnership focuses on growing ni-Vanuatu entrepreneurship in the target sectors of tourism, handicraft and agri-business. Accessibility of a quality national training system is a key focus, particularly for women, people with disability and in remote areas.

In partnership with Vanuatu's Ministry of Education and Training, skills centres have been established in four provinces. These centres act as brokers between economic opportunities and the supply of flexible, relevant training delivered in communities and to small businesses in rural areas.

In the handicraft sector, improving skills and business mentoring has led to increased numbers of formal producers (mostly women) as well as the establishment of provincial inter-island trading hubs with the potential for overseas export. The National Bank of Vanuatu has expanded its financial services to cater for the number of women in rural areas increasing their income generation.

The Partnership is ni-Vanuatu managed and embedded within government structures. Recognising the social and economic benefits, the Vanuatu Government's Department of Tourism is contributing to the Partnership's Skills Development Fund (around VUV2 million per year). In addition to our funding, Australia supports the program by providing strategic advice, including through planning.

All Partnership activities foster good governance and local leadership, strengthening a cohort of community and business leaders with strong people-to-people links with Australia.

Australia Awards Scholarship holders exchanging stories.
Photo: DFAT



Australia Awards Scholarships

Australia Awards Scholarships 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 Scholarships bring together scholarships administered by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and DFAT.

Australia Awards Scholarships are a feature of nearly all of Australia's bilateral development assistance programs. They use Australian education and training expertise to build 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 principles guiding investment in Australia Awards Scholarships are:

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

In 2019, Australia offered 3,161 Australia Awards Scholarships and short courses to individuals from more than 55 developing countries, including 1,203 Australia Awards Scholarships, 331 Australia Awards Pacific Scholarships, 12 ACIAR awards, and 1,615 Australia Awards short courses.

Australia Awards Scholarships are provided in line with the priority sectors identified by each country program. Scholarship designs for each bilateral program identify priority areas of study to support partner countries' development objectives.



3156
awardees

ACROSS 52 COUNTRIES
GLOBALLY



53%
females

**AUSTRALIA AWARDS
SCHOLARS ON AWARD
IN 2019***

* data as at 31 January 2019

Building resilience

INDONESIA
AUSTRALIA INDONESIA
PARTNERSHIP IN
DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT



Strengthening regional co-operation and disaster management

\$25m
2019–20 TO 2023–24


AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Supporting peaceful development

\$65m
2018–19 TO 2019–20

PACIFIC
STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE



Integrating climate change and disaster resilience management

\$10.4m
2018–19 TO 2021–22

Program highlights
2019–20 Budget Estimate

Program	2019–20 Budget Estimate \$m
Pacific	133.3
Southeast and East Asia	83.4
South and West Asia	48.1
The Middle East and Africa	107.5
Global*	292.5
Total ODA to building resilience	664.8

* 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

Australia’s humanitarian assistance to countries in the Indo-Pacific region helps to strengthen resilience and mitigate the impact of disasters and humanitarian crises. Humanitarian crises reverse hard-won development gains, increase poverty and can result in instability that can last for decades. In 2018, Asia was the worst-affected continent in terms of the number of natural disasters. It accounted for 43 per cent of all events worldwide and for 74 per cent of fatalities. Seven of the top 10 most disaster-prone countries are in the Indo-Pacific region. Population growth, urbanisation and climate change are exacerbating these threats. The UN estimates that from 2005 to 2015, disasters affected impacted more than 1.5 billion people and caused economic losses of USD1.4 trillion.⁹

Australia’s ability to rapidly deploy high-quality humanitarian assistance—including Defence assets and personnel, humanitarian supplies, expert technical teams, and funding through humanitarian partners—means we remain the region’s partner of choice when a crisis hits. For example, Australian investments in earthquake-resilient infrastructure in Pacific countries, including roads, education facilities, hospitals and health clinics, water supply and public buildings, have improved the ability of critical infrastructure to withstand extreme weather and seismic events. Australian assistance also focuses on addressing gender equality and responding to the needs of women and girls as essential steps in strengthening resilience and reducing disaster risks.

⁹ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *The Human Cost of Weather Related Disasters 1995–2016*, 2015

When disasters strike, and during times of crisis, Australia provides generous and timely assistance to our neighbours. In our immediate region during 2018–19, we responded to: earthquakes in PNG; Tropical Cyclone Gita in Tonga; the earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi, Indonesia; the Laos dam collapse; the Lombok earthquake in Indonesia; Tropical Cyclone Mangkhut in the Philippines; and the Ambae volcano response in Vanuatu. Australian assistance saved lives and helped hasten post-disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Australia's ability to mitigate disaster risks and respond quickly to crises is strengthened by the Australian Humanitarian Partnership. The Australian Government partners with six leading Australian NGOs, whose strong community links allow for assistance to be rapidly delivered to affected communities during crises. In 2018–19 through the Partnership, Australia supported humanitarian responses in six countries—Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon and Vanuatu.

During 2018, the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's \$50 million, Disaster READY initiative (2018–22) began. This is Australia's largest ever investment in disaster preparedness. It focuses on five countries in our immediate region—Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. In 2018–19, Australia developed a cash assistance program, now being successfully delivered to communities affected by volcanic displacement in Vanuatu. International evidence shows that cash assistance is among the most effective means of supporting disaster-affected communities, because cash transfers provide more choices for households and communities to allow them to prioritise their own needs, and how and when they need it. It also ensures that money stays in the local community. This is the first time that cash assistance has been used in Vanuatu. It demonstrates the value of investments in disaster preparedness in enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian responses in the region.

In 2019–20, Disaster READY will continue to help communities and governments to better prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, including by undertaking risk mapping studies and training local community response workers. The program will help reduce damage and loss when disaster strikes and support communities to recover more quickly, with a focus on the needs of people with disability, women, youth and children.

Australia will also continue to support disaster preparedness in the Pacific under the new five-year Australian Red Cross Humanitarian Partnership 2019–2024. This partnership supports local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to help communities to anticipate, prepare for and recover from disasters. Red Cross National Societies in the Pacific were key partners in responding to recent disasters in PNG, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Australia will host the 2020 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction. We will bring together governments, civil society and the private sector to look at ways to mitigate the impacts of disasters in our region, including increasing understanding of disaster risks, and the importance of resilient infrastructure.

We are piloting a new response mechanism, enabling deployment of high-quality prefabricated infrastructure to support important social services, such as education and health. We know getting schools opened and health clinics operational is essential to community recovery.

Australia is taking steps to establish a formal stand-by capability, having successfully tested the deployment of line technicians following cyclones in Fiji and Tonga. This will enable Australia's future humanitarian response and recovery efforts to support affected governments and ensure the rapid reconnection of electricity following a disaster. Providing the return of a safe electricity supply is key to recovery. Decreasing the time taken to restore critical electricity services can help save lives, including through maintaining the operation of hospitals and health facilities.

Case Study: Australia Assists



Mark Vaughan deployed to Vanuatu to support communities affected by the Ambae volcano eruption. Photo: DFAT

Australia Assists is Australia's humanitarian civilian deployment program, delivered by RedR Australia. In 2017–18, the program deployed 94 humanitarian specialists globally, helping our partners prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters and conflicts, including:

- » 20 deployments to the Pacific, with specialists working with host government agencies and UN partners to build local capacity
- » 37 deployments to Asia, including 32 to support the Rohingya refugee response
- » 8 deployments supporting humanitarian partners meet the needs of almost 3 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan
- » 16 deployments targeting gender and protection issues across the Pacific, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

At the close of the 2018 calendar year, Australia Assists had 19 deployees in the Pacific, including 10 working in host government agencies. In Vanuatu alone there were eight Australian deployees building local capacity, including working in the Government of Vanuatu agencies such as the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), the Department of Women and the Department of Public Works.

Mark Vaughan was one of six specialists deployed to Vanuatu supporting communities with the resettlement caused by the Ambae volcano eruption. Mark was a Field Project Manager and spent the first four months of his deployment on Maewo, an island where affected communities were being resettled. He worked to ensure clear lines of communication, information, and action between the NDMO in Port Vila and the Emergency Operations Centre on Maewo. He coordinated with local authorities and community groups to ensure the Vanuatu Government's Response and Recovery Plan was progressing and that evacuees were receiving support. He then moved to the Office of the Prime Minister in Port Vila, where he continued to represent the interests of evacuees, including through regular visits to Maewo.

Mark made a tangible difference to the lives of people in real need, and his contribution was acknowledged by the Maewo Council—he was even customarily adopted into the Maewo tribe and clan by the Senior Custom Chief.

Table 3: Total Australian ODA for Australian Humanitarian Programs

	2018–19 Budget Estimate \$m	2019–20 Budget Estimate \$m
Disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response	39.0	51.0
Protracted crises and strengthening humanitarian action	87.2	115.5
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	10.0	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
Total	409.7	450.0

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. More than 68 million people are currently displaced globally (25.4 million refugees and more than 43 million internally displaced people). This is the highest number since World War II.

Australia’s humanitarian assistance supports displaced people as close to home as possible, including supporting host countries to provide education and livelihood opportunities. In doing so, our objective is to minimise dangerous secondary movements of people and assist communities to return home when conditions are safe. Australia has worked constructively with international partners to contribute to global efforts to address displacement, including through negotiations on the Global Refugee and Migration Compacts.

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 continues to focus strongly on protection efforts for women and girls and people with disability because they are particularly vulnerable during conflicts and natural disasters.

Africa

Australia’s humanitarian assistance to Africa focuses on the ongoing famine and crises in Somalia and South Sudan, both of which have resulted in significant displacement to neighbouring countries. Approximately 7 million people need humanitarian assistance in South Sudan, including nearly 4.2 million people who were forced to flee their homes. Approximately 4.4 million people are food insecure. In Somalia, 4.2 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance, including 2.6 million internally displaced people and 1.5 million who are food insecure. Humanitarian access remains a significant challenge in both countries. Australia continues to support relief efforts by working with the UN and other trusted humanitarian partners.

Asia

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

Social protection

Social protection programs provide support directly to poor and vulnerable people. This gives them the resources they need to make decisions about their lives, including feeding their families, keeping children in school and pursuing livelihood opportunities. Social protection is fundamental to poverty reduction and is thus included in several Sustainable Development Goals. A key target of the first goal—ending poverty—is to ensure appropriate social protection systems exist and that their coverage is expanded.

Australia's approach remains focused on working with partner governments to maximise the effectiveness of their own social protection programs. Such programs can reduce inequality, as well as poverty, and support growth that is inclusive of the poor and vulnerable. These are all important areas of focus within the White Paper.

Asia

In 2019–20, Australia will continue to work with countries in Asia to develop and expand their own social protection systems. Australia supports work in social protection in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

In Indonesia, Australia will continue to assist the Papua provincial government to pilot a cash transfer program for children under four years of age to reduce child malnutrition, improve child health, promote local economic growth, and reduce poverty. Through the World Bank, Australia supported the expansion of Indonesia's Family Hope Conditional Cash Transfer Program from six million households to ten million households in 2018. This program helps the poorest families to invest in the health and education of their children. We are also supporting the World Bank to increase the flexibility of Indonesia's social protection system to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies.

Australia is assisting the Government of Bangladesh to operationalise its ambitious new social security strategy, 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 and assists more than 45 million people, so this support is an effective way for Australia to reach the country's poorest households. Because women are particularly affected by economic shocks, we are supporting Bangladesh to enhance its program's response to the needs of women. Australia will also continue to support the country's largest NGO, BRAC, on a program that targets the complex economic and social drivers of poverty and increases economic opportunities for the poorest and most marginalised women.

In the Philippines, Australia's support will focus on the continuous improvement of the conditional cash transfer program that covers more than four million poor households. Increasing access and use of social services by key vulnerable groups is emphasised, including homeless street families, people with disability and indigenous people. In addition, Australia will work with the Philippine Government to review its social protection framework to support the country's goal of providing universal and transformative social protection that benefits the entire population.

Pacific

Australia will continue to support the development of social protection systems that are responsive to large shocks, especially in the Pacific. Most recently, Australia's development assistance enhanced social protection programs in Fiji after Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016, and in Tonga after Tropical Cyclone Gita in 2018. These responses provide examples of mechanisms that help the vulnerable during normal times and that can provide extra assistance during shocks.

Where social protection systems are not yet adequate for an effective shock response, Australia will continue to work to increase the scale and quality of other cash transfer programming in the Pacific. Where possible, we will link cash programming with developing social protection systems. We will also support the documentation and dissemination of cash innovation and learning in the Pacific.

Support to Indonesia following the Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami.
Photo: DFAT/Timothy Tobing



Gender Equality Fund and empowering women and girls



The Women, Peace and Security Agenda is a priority for the Gender Equality Fund. New programming will be guided by the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, expected to be launched in mid-2019. Australia was the first, and remains the largest, contributor to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, \$6.5 million over seven years to 2021. The Fund works with grassroots women's organisations to prevent and mediate conflict. Australia's contribution to the Fund specifically targets Pacific women's organisations.

Women's economic empowerment continues to be a strong focus of the Gender Equality Fund, in particular advancing women entrepreneurs in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and helping them to access much-needed financial services.

Through the Fund, Australia supports Women's World Banking, a \$10.5 million project over five years to 2020, a global non-profit network of 40 financial institutions reaching 24.5 million low-income women in 29 countries. Women's World Banking works to research, pilot and roll out innovative financial products and services for poor women, including savings, credit, micro-insurance and financial literacy programs. Australia's funding facilitates the organisation's expanding work in Southeast Asia. In October 2019, Australia will be the major sponsor of the biannual Making Finance Work for Women Summit, bringing it to our region for the first time, in Singapore.

The Gender Equality Fund also supports the flagship Investing in Women initiative, which will enter its second phase from 2019–20. The initiative works with private sector partners to expand women's economic participation as employees and entrepreneurs in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam. Through Investing in Women, and in collaboration with other programs trialling new forms of development finance, Australia will build on our recognised international reputation as a leader in the fast-evolving field of gender-lens impact investing.

The Women's Livelihood Bond is another ground-breaking finance mechanism Australia supports. It provides finance for women's sustainable livelihoods enterprises in Asia. Since its launch in 2017, the Women's Livelihood Bond has reached more than 140,000 women. Listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange, it pools a group of small impact enterprises and microfinance institutions into a single large and lower risk loan portfolio accessible to investors through a bond mechanism. This provides a more competitive investment option than does the smaller individual investments that usually dominate the impact investing market.



The Gender Equality Fund invests in a range of mechanisms to improve the availability of gender equality data. The Fund's key data investment is the Individual Deprivation Measure (IDM), a new tool that will provide more in-depth assessment of poverty. In partnership with the Australian National University and the International Women's Development Agency, the IDM assesses poverty, broadly defined, at the individual level, enabling disaggregation by sex, age, disability and geography. Going beyond dollars per day, the IDM will analyse intersecting factors to reveal overlapping disadvantage. Factors include access to food, shelter, health care and education, as well as experiences of violence. By showing how individuals in a household experience deprivation or poverty, the IDM will provide a more nuanced picture of poverty and enables more effective targeting and monitoring of the impact of policies and programs. The IDM is still in development, with the focus in 2019–20 on finalising it in readiness for global use by 2020.

The Gender Equality Fund also supports the regional element of Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development (2012–22; \$320 million), which works across 14 Pacific countries on women's economic empowerment, women's leadership and ending violence against women and girls.

Case Study: Reducing gender-based violence in our region

Violence against women and girls is widely recognised as a fundamental violation of human rights, a global health problem and a considerable social and economic cost to individuals, communities and countries. The Australian Government is committed to reducing gender-based violence, both in Australia and overseas.

Upholding this commitment in the Indo-Pacific region, the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) supports World Vision Australia to reduce gender-based violence in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor-Leste. World Vision Australia partners with church leaders in these countries to change the attitudes that perpetuate gender-based violence and inequality. Their Channels of Hope program explores gender inequality issues from a faith perspective, reflecting the strong influence of faith across the three countries. It empowers faith and community leaders to promote non-violence and gender equality in their communities.

The Australian Volunteers Program partners with organisations in Timor-Leste that work to reduce gender-based violence. Since 2001, 15 Australian volunteers have supported Timor-Leste's Alola Foundation to advocate for the rights of women and children. The Working Women's Centre Timor-Leste provides education and support to vulnerable women workers.



Under Round One of Australian Aid: Friendship Grants, the community organisation, Hagar Australia is being supported to decrease gender-based violence through awareness campaigns in Vietnam. The roll out of mass awareness campaigns and awareness-raising sessions aims to increase knowledge about gender-based violence, human trafficking, women's rights and gender equality.

As stated in the Australian Government's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy, promoting gender equality is smart economics and the right thing to do. These programs support the Australian Government's commitment to be at the forefront of efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls in our region.

Disability-inclusive development

A core principle of Australia's approach to disability-inclusive development is an active and central role for people with disability. In 2019–20, Australia, through the implementation of our development program, will continue to work with people with disability and their representative organisations, to deliver a disability-inclusive development program across the Indo-Pacific region. We will continue to support disabled people's organisations in developing countries to advocate for their rights, including through our partnerships with the Pacific Disability Forum and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund.

In 2019–20, Australian disability-inclusive development assistance will focus on:

- » continuing to improve the mainstreaming of disability inclusion within Australian development investments, including responding to recommendations made within the Office of Development Effectiveness evaluation, *Development for All: Evaluation of progress made in strengthening disability inclusion in Australian Aid*
- » maintaining a role as an active member of Global Action on Disability, including through engagement in the network's three thematic focus areas of inclusive education, social protection and humanitarian action
- » providing support and a voice to the most marginalised people with disability within our region, including through supporting the design of a situational analysis in the Pacific for people who are deaf
- » investigating solutions to a regional approach to the procurement and provision of assistive technologies and devices in the Pacific, following recommendations made through a feasibility study
- » continuing to build global capacity to collect and analyse disability data through our disability data partnerships with the UN Washington Group on Disability Statistics and UNICEF.

With assistance from the Peduli program, and after years of being an invisible citizen, Sriyanto; a person with Cerebral Palsy in Sukoharjo District, Central Java Province; proudly held his national identity card for the first time. This photo affirms that people with disability (often not counted in statistics in Indonesia) are equal and recognised before the law. Photo: Muhammad Aditya Setyawan



In remote Vetimboso Village, Victoria is meticulously preparing her signature handmade 'half-moon' cane basket. Victoria joined a work stream that is reviving and preserving authentic traditional craft. She has been profoundly deaf since birth, has never been to school or participated in formal training. Victoria's mother, though, has passed on to her a precious gift—her cultural skills and heritage. Being part of the work stream has given her access to markets that were previously inaccessible. Victoria is now one of the highest income earners from her group and has expanded into running a small-scale piggery business by using her income to purchase fencing for her two pigs. Photo: Chris Delany



The Fund's multi-year commitments include:



\$6m OVER 4 YEARS

to develop disability data tools to measure implementation of the SDGs and ensure no one is left behind



\$14m OVER 5 YEARS

to give voice to people with disability by supporting their representative organisations (known as Disabled People's Organisations) to advocate on disability rights and inclusive development



\$2.6m OVER 2 YEARS

to provide disability-inclusive development technical assistance, capacity building and support to ensure development is improving the lives of people with disability



\$170k in 2019-20

for a situational analysis in the Pacific to understand the needs of people who are deaf



\$12.67m OVER 4 YEARS

to strengthen disability inclusion at the country and regional level in the Indo-Pacific, by improving participation in non-disability specific programs by people with disability in developing countries

Sport for development

The Australian Government is working in partnership with sporting and development organisations to foster the development of healthy communities in the Indo-Pacific region.

Case study: Australian Sports Partnerships Program

Building on more than a decade of investment in sport for development, the Australian Government has committed to investing \$60 million over 10 years through a new Indo-Pacific Australian Sports Partnerships Program.

The first phase will begin in late 2019 and be delivered in six Pacific countries (Fiji, Nauru, PNG, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu) and four Asian countries (India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines).

The program will strengthen links between Australia and its neighbours. By supporting good governance and improved practices and systems, it will help build safe, fair and accessible sporting organisations in our region. It will aim to increase the participation of women and girls in sport and encourage disability inclusion, social cohesion and healthy lifestyles.

The program is a deliverable under Sports Diplomacy 2030, the Australian Government's long-term strategy for sports diplomacy.

Students enjoying a game of soccer thanks to the Just Play program, supported by the Australian Government in the Solomon Islands. Photo: Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Aaron Kearney

