



Australian Government



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Australian aid at work
in Africa

Cover and inside back cover:
Ugandan women celebrate hope
through the help they have received at
a legal aid clinic in Kawempe which
raises public awareness and protects
the legal rights of people affected
by HIV/AIDS. The clinic is run by
Plan Uganda with assistance from
Australia.

Cover photo: Kim Biedrzycki, AusAID

Inside back cover photo: Kate Holt,
Africa Practice

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For more information about the Australian Government's international
development program, contact:

Communications Section
AusAID
GPO Box 887
Canberra ACT 2601

Phone +61 2 6206 4000
Facsimile +61 2 6206 4880
Internet www.ausaid.gov.au

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Australia's development assistance to African countries

The Australian Government is committed to broadening and deepening engagement with African countries including through enhanced trade and commercial investments, strengthened diplomatic links and increased development assistance.

In 2009–10, Australia's development assistance to Africa increased by more than 40 per cent to almost A\$165 million. Australian aid to African countries will continue to increase significantly over coming years. Australia will support Africa's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals in areas where Australia has experience and expertise, including agriculture and food security, maternal and child health, and water and sanitation. Australia will also help build Africa's human resource capacity through a significantly expanded scholarships program and targeted technical assistance in areas of Australian expertise, such as agriculture, public policy, and natural resource management (including mining).

While Australia's assistance has traditionally been provided to Southern and Eastern Africa, the Australian Government is expanding its aid program to include Central and West Africa. Scholarships and capacity building activities are being delivered across the continent, and humanitarian assistance will remain responsive to emergencies across Africa. In addition, Australia will support protracted relief efforts in Sudan, Zimbabwe and the Horn of Africa.

Australia is also committed to helping rebuild a democratic Zimbabwe, and supporting early international efforts to promote economic recovery and the restoration of basic services in Zimbabwe.

Australia's development assistance to African countries:

- supports progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in sectors where Australia can add unique value. This is delivered in partnership with other donors, multilateral organisations and non-government organisations.
- builds skills and capacity across Africa through scholarships, training and technical assistance in priority areas.
- contributes timely and effective humanitarian assistance by responding to emergency situations and supporting protracted humanitarian efforts. Australia's aid also increases community resilience and reduces vulnerability to disasters.
- supports efforts by the inclusive Government of Zimbabwe to bring sustainable and longer-term improvements to the lives of Zimbabweans.



Scientists working in their laboratory at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya.
Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice



A mother comforts her child in Lilongwe, Malawi. Photo: Stephen Morrison, Africa Practice



A family collects clean water from a town pump in Malawi. Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice



Partnering for better food security

Australia shares a similar climate to many African countries and has relevant expertise to share in agricultural research and farming. In 2009 it announced a four-year global food security initiative, under which A\$100 million is to assist countries in Africa affected by the global food crisis.

This new program will be closely aligned to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, a framework agreed by the African Union for building food security in Africa. Australian assistance will focus on three important pillars: agricultural research and development; increased market access for rural farmers; and helping those in need gain access to food. This support will be delivered through partnerships with African regional institutions working on food security.

One example of this is where Australia provides funding through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), as both core and project funding.

ILRI is a non-government organization which aims to improve the wellbeing of people in developing countries by improving livestock on smallholder farms. ILRI works in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with offices in East and West Africa, South and Southeast Asia, China and Central America.

Morris Agaba, a research scientist at ILRI in Nairobi, Kenya has witnessed firsthand how the work of the Institute contributes to African food security.

"I work in the research labs above the farm on the main campus and my job is to develop new tools and vaccines that will be used to help farmers improve the quality and resilience of their livestock.

ILRI is one of sixteen centres across Africa but this is the only centre that focuses just on livestock. The other centres also look at crops. There is a lot of basic biology around my job. I am looking at how animals respond to infection as well as their reactions to the different environments that they live in. We are trying to find out how breeds of livestock can be improved which in turn will help the lives of the farmers and communities.

Livestock is part of Africa's heritage and through the better understanding of it we can help contribute to food security. Kenya is just coming out of a major drought. We need to look at how animals have managed to resist the drought and what breeds of animals have become more adapted to dealing with these sorts of climatic conditions.

Our first biggest success was a few years ago when we managed to map the genes of cows in 2007. We were the first place to actually produce the gene sequence, which was a huge breakthrough."



Morris Agaba, Scientist and Molecular Biologist at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya has witnessed firsthand how the work of the Institute contributes to African food security. Australia provides funding to the Institute through the Australian Council for International Agricultural Research. Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice

Improving the health and lives of mothers and children



A mother travels by foot to meet with other women in her community in Kachamba, near Lilongwe, Malawi. Photo: Stephen Morrison, Africa Practice



Australian doctor Catherine Hamlin, founder of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia in 1975, stands with two patients who have received the life-changing operation to mend their obstetric fistulas. Photo: Lucy Perry, Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund Australia

In sub-Saharan Africa women face a 1-in-22 chance of dying in pregnancy or childbirth. This is why Australia targets mothers in its existing health, HIV/AIDS, food security and humanitarian efforts.

One example of this is Australia's support over the last 25 years for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. The hospital was founded by Australians Dr Catherine Hamlin and her late husband, Dr Reg Hamlin, in 1975.

The hospital specialises in treating women who suffer from obstetric fistula caused by prolonged unassisted obstructed labour. Women who suffer from an obstetric fistula are often outcast from their communities and become destitute unless they can get to the main hospital facility in Addis Ababa or one of its regional centres in Mekelle, Bahir Dar, Yirgalem and Harer. A fifth centre is being built at Metu in the remote western region near the Sudanese border.

With Australia's support, the hospital treats more than 2,500 women each year. More than 90 per cent of patients are cured with a simple surgical procedure developed by the Hamlins. The remaining 8 per cent of women have injuries which are so severe that they can never be fully cured. For these women, the hospital has established a village called Desta Mender ('Joy Village'). The women are provided with skills training in farming, horticulture and craft, as well as cooking, catering and hospitality services.

The main cause of obstetric fistula is the lack of adequate medical facilities to assist women in labour. To reduce the incidence of obstetric fistula amongst rural Ethiopian women, the hospital is establishing the Hamlin College of Midwives. In 2010 the first graduates are being deployed into the Ethiopian countryside to assist in childbirths and to help women who are at risk of obstructed labour to access medical help before they give birth.

Australia is continuing to support Australian non-government organisations and their local partners for health initiatives at the community level, and will continue to improve Africa's health workforce.

On average, one in every six children in sub-Saharan Africa dies before five years of age, and due to the effects of HIV/AIDS their futures can be negatively affected. For a number of years, Australia has worked with international partners to reduce child mortality and improve the quality of life of children, recognising the importance of psychosocial support and broader social welfare to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

One example of this is the Australian Partnerships with African Communities program. Through this program, Australia and ChildFund Uganda provide assistance to orphaned and vulnerable children at the Nakanyonyi Primary School. ChildFund's program reduces the impact of HIV/AIDS on affected children and youth by strengthening community support networks and improving children's psychological and physical wellbeing. Australia recognises that a sound psychosocial environment is important to building a child's resilience and greatly enhances their future prospects.

ChildFund activities include training teachers in psychosocial support and child counselling techniques, training children and youth as peer educators, promoting school-based social and recreational activities such as health clubs, music, drama and dance, and enhancing their livelihood skills through participation in school gardening activities. The program focuses on the importance of teachers as key partners in improving the wellbeing of school children.

The children at Nakanyonyi Primary School are proud to show visitors how their water pump distributes water to a large lush garden growing all kinds of fruits and vegetables, which were built and grown with the support from Australia. Beside the garden is a piggery and a poultry farm with chickens and turkeys. The garden and the animals are used to feed around 450 vulnerable children attending the school.

Robert Bagatya teaches science, mathematics and agriculture at the school, and provides psychosocial support to the students through counselling. This counselling is often just as important as their general schooling.

He explained that the students are all involved in tending the garden and animals, and learn about agriculture in the process. Any excess produce is sold to the community through a market and the money is used to purchase school equipment.

“We also provide school uniforms and shoes for the children, to care for them well at school, and we buy new planting materials to have it as a sustainable activity.

When we do it practically in the garden it helps us in improving the life skills and the agriculture skills of the children, which later is transformed from here to the communities where it helps act as a source of income in the home. We are sure that poverty will be history in this area because people are able to get money, food, skills and their activities are sustainable,” Mr Bagatya explained.

ChildFund’s work in Uganda is one example of how Australia is supporting families affected by HIV/AIDS and tackling broader issues impacting on children’s health.



Students at the Nakanyonyi Primary School in Jinja, Uganda tend to their school garden made possible with a ChildFund program that receives funding from Australia.
Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice



Access to clean water and basic sanitation

Australia recognises that improved access to clean water and effective sanitation is central to human wellbeing and plays an important part in social and economic development.

Australia has helped improve access to clean water and sanitation in Africa over a number of years and will intensify its efforts to support progress towards the Millennium Development Goal targets.

In 2007 Australia introduced a A\$300 million, three-year water and sanitation initiative to expand basic sanitation services, increase hygiene promotion, and improve water supply and sanitation infrastructure in Asia, the Pacific and Africa. In Africa, Australia's assistance will support efforts at both regional and country levels with a focus on towns and market centres.

An example of Australia's assistance comes from Mozambique, which faces a number of challenges relating to water. Mozambique has a highly variable climate with frequent droughts and floods, and over half its water resources come from neighbouring countries.

Costa del Sol is a growing community near Maputo. The town is expanding quickly and the community realized their water needs were increasing. Without an independent water supply, residents faced a long walk each day to get clean drinking water. Bringing water in by tanker to store in the community was expensive, but there was no other way for the community to harvest or store its water resources.

Australia's funding to the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) helped implement what has now become the largest campaign to simplify domestic distribution of water in Mozambique.

The city water utility had previously built a water distribution unit to connect families to water sources. With Australia's assistance, Costa del Sol was able to establish 3,600 water connections for the community. Thousands of people now have clean water at home and no longer have to pay for the costs of transporting it. More importantly, health and hygiene has improved as people can access clean water on demand in their own home.

Amelia Lisango was given a stand pipe in her garden as part of the new water project. She lives with her husband, a fisherman, their daughter and several relatives. Amelia says that having fresh water on their property has already made a big difference to their lives.

"Before I used to have to walk very far to get it, but now that we can get it right outside our house I have a lot more time to work in my garden, and help my husband mend his nets for fishing."

Australia is also supporting similar efforts in other Southern African countries, and trialling new approaches to the delivery of water and sanitation services across Africa.



Amelia Lisango collects water from her home garden stand pipe in Costa del Sol near Maputo in Mozambique, thanks to a water project run by the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program, with assistance from Australia.
Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice



Investing in natural resources

More than 300 Australian resource companies are active throughout Africa, with existing and prospective investments estimated at up to A\$20 billion and activities in nearly 30 countries across the continent. Australian companies are also active in delivering a broad range of mining services, including engineering, consulting and analysis.

These companies have earned a reputation for integrity and good practice in mine safety and environmental responsibility, and for developing the skills of local communities. They bring world-class technology and expertise to their Africa operations.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that Australia's investment meets Africa's economic and development objectives. By working closely with African governments, Australia can maximise opportunities for investment and as a consequence increase employment, skills development, technology transfer, community development and sustainable environmental management.

Australia's experience in developing a sustainable mining sector means that it can help resource-endowed African countries to make informed choices about how to maintain a sector that is profitable, technologically appropriate and environmentally and socially responsible—the key requirements of a sustainable mineral resources sector.

Australia has created a new technical facility, the Australia-Africa Partnership Facility, to help build governments' capacity in a range of priority areas. An important focus of this program is to provide technical assistance to help African countries tap into their mineral wealth. Building on Australian knowledge and expertise, the program includes access to technical assistance and training in the management of mining industries.

Natural resource management is also one of the priority sectors to be covered by Australia's scholarship program in Africa, which will provide up to 1,000 scholarships and fellowships Africa-wide by 2012–13. This includes an expansion of Australia's short-term fellowships focused specifically on governance and sustainable management of the mining sector.

Australia has shown its commitment to good governance in mining and natural resources through support for the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). The EITI is a coalition of governments, companies, civil society groups, investors and international organisations which supports improved governance in resource-rich countries through the verification and full publication of company payments and government revenues from oil, gas and mining.



Students at Nelson Mandela Secondary School which is supported by BHP Billiton's Mozal aluminium smelter and the Australian Government as a community development initiative. Photo: AusAID

Building human resource capacity



Australian university graduate Catherine Barasa is using her Masters in International Public Health to help the Ugandan people respond to the challenges of HIV/AIDS. Photo: AusAID

Australian scholarship recipients

Recognising that skills development is key to the future of African countries, Australia is significantly expanding its scholarships program to Africa. By 2012–13, Australia will be providing 1,000 scholarships and fellowships per year across the continent. Scholarships contribute to the long-term needs of partner countries by enabling Africans to undertake postgraduate study and training courses in Australia and overseas.

Catherine Barasa is an Australian university graduate who completed a Masters in International Public Health. She had previously trained as a social scientist and was working in Uganda as an HIV/AIDS adviser to the education sector, but knew that without further study she would be unable to make the progress in her work and career that she longed for.

Through her Masters, Catherine has strengthened her understanding of risk factors surrounding HIV and how this should drive HIV prevention programs. Her study was the stepping stone to her current job at UNAIDS where she believes her work is making a real difference to the Ugandan people.

As well as what she learnt about the subject, the experience in Australia also taught Catherine how to analyse information and produce original work.

“The learning curve of how to formulate one’s own ideas for me was hard but was invaluable. The course has definitely changed my way of working, thinking and presenting ideas and I feel so much more confident when confronted with challenges in my work environment.”

Australian volunteers

Australian volunteers share their skills and knowledge with individuals, organisations, and communities in African countries as a way of building capacity at the local level. By living and working as part of their community, volunteers promote cultural ties and build people-to-people links between Africa and Australia. Volunteering overseas is one way that Australians can make a positive contribution to poverty reduction, sustainable development and cross cultural understanding. The Australian Government has supported volunteers since the 1960s and is currently expanding its volunteers program across Africa.

St. Michael’s Community Hospital is a non-profit organization run by the Catholic Church in Malawi. It has 90 beds and supports a community of around 15,000 people.

The first priority of the hospital is to save lives. Even if people can’t pay immediately they will still be treated, and can follow up with payment when they are better and can afford it.

The majority of patients suffer from anaemia, malaria and malnutrition. HIV/AIDS is also an issue. In addition to its medical services, the hospital is also a dentist and maternity unit with post- and pre-natal care facilities.

Australian Volunteers International (AVI) has placed over 60 volunteers across Malawi since 1990. Most of these have been in the education sector, but others have worked as health professionals in clinical and similar areas. St Michael's has hosted volunteers in a number of different roles.

Current volunteer Danielle Deidun had worked as a pharmacist in Australia and the UK for over ten years before deciding it was time for a change. Danielle applied to be a volunteer and took a position as a pharmacist at St. Michael's Hospital. Her role is primarily to undertake day-to-day stock management and dispensing in the hospital's pharmacy.

Danielle says she is determined to lead by example and to give staff the confidence they need to continue the work when she leaves.

Danielle trains staff members in the various elements of her role, so they can continue to run the operation as a team. This includes teaching staff about managing their supply of medicine, as well as being able to recommend alternatives when they don't have what they need.

Another volunteer at the hospital is Sophie Wilson, who works as a registered nurse. Sophie was trained and qualified in Australia and completed a month's training in Lasuzu, in order to register as a Malawian nurse before moving to St. Michael's Hospital.

As a nursing mentor, Sophie helps train Malawian nurses in both technical and managerial skills, including good judgment. Volunteers like Sophie help fill the training gap at St. Michael's Hospital.

When Sophie finishes in a year she would like to move into a teaching role in her field as she feels this kind of experience along with her training puts her in a strong position to teach others well.

"I love Malawi—the friendliness and happiness of the people is amazing considering the conditions in which they live. Working here isn't only about the work—it is about being part of the local community."



Australian volunteer Danielle Deidun donates her time and skills as a pharmacist at St Michael's Hospital in the Guillemé District of Lilongwe, Malawi. Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice



Australian volunteer Sophie Wilson working as a registered nurse at St Michael's Hospital in the Guillemé District of Lilongwe, Malawi. Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice

Helping promote human rights



A mother receives counselling at a legal aid clinic in Kawempe, Uganda where people whose lives have been affected in some way by HIV/AIDS receive advice and assistance on their legal rights. The clinic is run by Plan Uganda with assistance from Australia.
Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice

Australia was involved in drafting the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and was one of 48 states who more than 60 years ago voted in favour of the Declaration.

The Declaration gives global expression to the basic rights and freedoms to which all human beings are entitled and provides a standard to which all nations can be held to account. The protection and promotion of human rights is vital to global efforts to achieve lasting peace, security, freedom and dignity for all.

An example of Australia's interest in protecting human rights is through a program established more than five years ago by Plan Uganda and Uganda's Federation of Women Lawyers. The Kawempe Legal Aid Clinic in Kampala, Uganda is a key project delivered through the Australian Partnerships with African Communities program. The clinic raises awareness and protects the legal rights of people affected by HIV/AIDS who have had their rights violated. Some of these violations include discrimination, sexual violence, early marriages, and property grabbing, among other things.

Roselyn and Dorothy are two volunteer legal officers who work with five others for up to 10 hours a day every week on hundreds of cases, with an estimated 30 new cases arriving each week.

"Usually this is their only hope. Some people just want to be listened to. I met a woman who had never shared her story with anyone, and she was just so happy for someone to finally listen," Dorothy said.

In 2009–10 Australia will provide A\$3 million through the Human Rights Small Grants Scheme to fund projects that promote and protect human rights across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The geographic scope of this year's scheme has been extended to include African countries, reflecting Australia's strong commitment to engagement with Africa and the universality of human rights. Grants have been awarded to organisations in Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan.

These projects will advance good governance, gender equality, the rights of indigenous people, and people with disability.

