

ADRAS research theme: Health

Total funding available: up to AUD 5 million over 3 years

The Australian Government is committed to helping improve the health of poor and vulnerable people in developing countries. Good health is a human right and a means to achieving other development goals. However, many countries remain off-track to meet the health Millennium Development Goals and the poorest and most vulnerable people continue to bear the greatest burden of ill health. Australia can, and does, make a difference to the health of poor and vulnerable people, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

The Health theme has been developed in accordance with the six pillars of the AusAID health thematic strategy, *Saving lives – Improving the health of the worlds poor*.

Please see the AusAID Health webpage for further information:

[Health Web Page](#)

Eligibility criteria

Applications for funding for up to three years will be considered. Applicants are eligible to receive between AUD 200,000 and AUD 400,000 in funding per year.

Applicants must address one of the sub-themes below. Applicants must clearly articulate the relevance of their proposal to the selected theme.

Research should have an application to the Asia-Pacific region, and cross-country analysis is encouraged

Sub-theme: Universal coverage / Sustainable health financing

Each year health care expenditure pushes around 100 million people into poverty— many of whom live in the Asia Pacific region.

In the Asia Pacific region, many low and middle income countries are trying to achieve universal coverage but are struggling with major funding shortfalls, variable quality and inefficient services, high user fees (particularly in Asia), and lacking a sustainable financing source. There is no single path to achieve universal coverage: each country needs to devise its own route to achieve this goal. In this environment there is a need to share lessons between countries attempting to achieve universal coverage (and where relevant those which already have).

This sub-theme is directly relevant to Pillar 2 of *Saving Lives*—Closing the funding gap to provide essential health services for all.

Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:

- Developing and implementing sustainable universal financial protection.
- The best implementation approaches to most reduce people's risk of poverty.
- Important implementation milestones including their selection and sequencing.
- Managing the complex political challenges inherent in health financing reform and marrying technical know-how with strategic political thinking.
- The pros and cons of different methods of identifying the poor who are vulnerable to health care costs.
- Improving access to quality health services for the poor in mixed health systems.
- Identifying and addressing underlying obstacles to improving efficiency in country health systems.
- Achieving national sustainable health financing in light of global financial constraints.

Sub-theme: Emerging Issues–Burden of Disease, Climate Change, and Urbanisation

Global health is increasingly affected by factors which require cross-sectoral collaboration and action. AusAID's health programming will increasingly need to respond to these issues, so it is necessary to develop forward-looking evidence to inform this work.

Addressing these issues is directly relevant to Pillar 4 of *Saving Lives*- Working with other sectors, such as education, water and sanitation, and rural development, to address the causes of poor health; and Pillar 5: Reducing the impact of global and regional health threats, particularly in Asia and the Pacific.

Some examples of issues within this sub-theme include but are not limited to:

- Understanding and addressing the implications of the changing burden of disease on health systems.
- Understanding and addressing the risks of climate change to health (including evidence on sustainable development for health).
- Understanding and addressing the impacts of urbanisation on health (in particular, child health) in low-income settings.