



Australian Government
AusAID



Partnership Framework

Between

**the Australian Agency for International Development
(AusAID)**

and

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

2008-2015

I. BACKGROUND

UNDP is the United Nation's global development network, established by the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) under GA resolution 2029 in 1965 with a presence today in over 166 countries, and the largest provider of development assistance in the UN system. UNDP coordinates global and national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) assisting countries to build the institutional capacity, policies and programs needed to reach the MDGs and benchmarking progress against them.

Australia's membership of the United Nations has been a cornerstone of its foreign policy since it joined the organisation as a founding member in 1945, acknowledging the United Nations' important role in building international consensus on key development challenges. In this normative role the United Nations helps set the agenda for international development policy. Australia recognises the vital role of the United Nations in the formulation of the MDGs and in placing those goals at the centre of the international development agenda. Through the UNDP Executive Board, Australia has contributed to UNDP's Strategic Plan 2008-2011, *Accelerating Global Progress on human development*, the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (A/RES/59/250 and A/RES/62/208), country programs and approved development assistance budgets and policies.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In entering this Partnership Framework, the partners mutually acknowledge their commitment to:

1. The delivery of effective aid in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action
2. The United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
3. Implementing sustainable development and crisis prevention and recovery assistance through the UN development system in a manner that recognises the 'Delivering as One' principles including national ownership, coordinated assessments and implementation of coherent systems
4. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and a recognition that improved gender equality is crucial to the achievement of the MDGs
5. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
6. The OECD Development Assistance Committee Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations
7. A closer, stronger and more transparent partnership based on:
 - a. Mutual respect for the contribution of each party, and recognising that each party has different skills, attributes and strengths

- b. Open and effective communication, including the sharing of lessons learned to strengthen the quality and effectiveness of joint and separate activities

III. SHARED OBJECTIVES

Shared Objective 1 – To work together to assist developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals

AusAID recognises that the United Nations is at the heart of global efforts to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). UNDP’s Strategic Plan 2008-2011, *Accelerating Global Progress on human development* and the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (A/RES/59/250 and A/RES/62/208) support the Millennium Declaration and contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. AusAID supports UNDP’s Strategic Plan, and will provide core and activity-specific funding to UNDP to support implementation of this Plan, the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, and broader efforts to achieve the MDGs.

In achieving this objective, AusAID and UNDP will strengthen their partnership on the following global issues:

Partnership commitments	Indicators
<p>AusAID and UNDP will work in partnership to make progress towards achieving the MDGs.</p> <p>UNDP will support coordination of global and national efforts to achieve the MDGs.</p>	<p>National and regional reporting on the MDGs.</p>
<p>AusAID will support UNDP’s central role in achieving the goals through increased core contributions.</p>	<p>Increased core funding by AusAID (in Australian dollars) to UNDP.</p>
<p>AusAID and UNDP will work towards achieving the MDGs in a way which is socially inclusive of all and will share information and best practice on how to ensure that programs meet the needs of men and women and the needs of people with disabilities.</p>	<p>AusAID and UNDP hold regular discussions on social inclusion issues, including gender and disability.</p> <p>AusAID consistently advocates during Board discussions for greater focus on social inclusion issues.</p>

Both organisations have an interest in helping the Asia-Pacific region achieve the MDGs. To this end, AusAID and UNDP will strengthen their partnership in the region on the following issues:

Partnership commitments	Indicators
AusAID and UNDP will strengthen their efforts to help the Asia-Pacific region achieve the MDGs.	Regular feedback and review of the overall scope and quality of AusAID and UNDP programs to achieve the MDGs in the Asia-Pacific region, and of our collaboration, particularly in the Pacific. ¹
AusAID and UNDP will promote the integration of MDGs into national poverty reduction plans of partner governments in the Asia-Pacific region.	Number of countries with poverty reduction strategies and/or national development and/or transition plans which specifically address MDGs.

Shared Objective 2 – To ensure the effective delivery of aid programs at the country level in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action

AusAID and UNDP are both committed to improving the effectiveness of their aid in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. UNDP has a particularly important role to play within and across the UN development system in encouraging and coordinating aid effectiveness. Both partners also recognise that approaches to aid delivery may need to be adapted to suit specific circumstances of countries in fragile situations, conflict-affected states and small island states, acknowledging the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) recognising the important role of women in conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and peacebuilding².

In supporting UNDP in this role, AusAID will, within its programs, encourage greater harmonisation between UN country team activities and those of other agencies.

Partnership commitments	Indicators
AusAID and UNDP (as a UN agency and within UN country teams) will both align activities with national priorities and needs, make greater use of national systems and build national capacity for the execution of programmes, monitoring and evaluation and other forms of reporting.	<p>Progress in achieving the objectives of the UN Development Group Action Plan for Implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness³ and Accra Agenda.</p> <p>AusAID and UNDP reporting on implementation of the principles of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda.</p> <p>Regular review and assessment of the</p>

¹ AusAID and UNDP Annual reports

² Section 21 of the Accra Agenda for Action, endorsed by AusAID and UNDP in September 2008, focuses on aid effectiveness in situations of fragility and conflict.

³ Future evaluations/reporting on the UNDG Contribution to the Paris Declaration

Partnership commitments	Indicators
	<p>level of satisfaction with UNDP's engagement in national aid management and delivery ⁴.</p> <p>Evidence of UNDP engagement in harmonising policies, processes and procedures with other UN funds and programmes and pursuit of those goals agreed with national Governments at the country level.</p>
<p>AusAID and UNDP are both committed to managing aid programs for better development results. Both organisations will regularly share information on approaches to results-based management, and participate in joint monitoring and evaluation of programs where appropriate.</p>	<p>Strengthened independent evidence based reporting in UNDP and AusAID's annual effectiveness/results reporting processes.</p> <p>UNDP input into selected Quality at Implementation Reports and participation in AusAID peer reviews of selected AusAID Annual Program Performance Reports.</p> <p>Number of joint monitoring and evaluation activities.</p>
<p>AusAID and UNDP will pursue further reductions in transaction costs on co-financed activities.</p>	<p>Standard AusAID-UNDP funding agreements used and improved as necessary.</p> <p>Guidance on modalities provided to AusAID staff.</p>
<p>UNDP will commit to actively coordinate UN engagement with the donor community at the country level, which will be strongly supported by AusAID (focusing attention on 2-3 countries in the Asia-Pacific region agreed by AusAID and UNDP each year).</p>	<p>Reports by UNDP and AusAID country offices in focus countries.</p>
<p>AusAID and UNDP will identify and share information and experience on effective aid delivery in countries in fragile situations, conflict-affected and small island states in fragile situations. In working toward this commitment, both</p>	<p>Interaction between AusAID and UNDP on fragility and conflict issues and sharing of peace and conflict training resources.</p> <p>Interaction between AusAID and UNDP</p>

⁴ Data from UNDP's partnership survey

Partnership commitments	Indicators
organisations will ensure adherence to the principles of UNSCR 1325 relating to the full participation of women in decision-making at the national, regional and international institutions.	on the protection of women in situations of armed conflict and endemic violence and the participation of women in peace processes guided by UNSCR 1325.

Shared Objective 3 – To actively support reform of the UN development system and within UNDP

AusAID and UNDP are both committed to the reform of the UN development system recognizing that improved coherence in the delivery of development assistance will increase aid effectiveness. UN reform is a priority issue for Australia. Australia is a strong supporter of key recommendations of the High-Level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence. AusAID supports the leadership role of UNDP as the manager of the Resident Coordinator system in encouraging reform within the UN development system and its commitment to ‘Delivering as One’. Improved coherence of UN development efforts at the country-level is a fundamental element of this partnership.

Partnership commitments	Indicators
AusAID and UNDP will encourage changes which will increase coherence, efficiency and effectiveness within UNDP, and between UNDP and other UN agencies at headquarters, regional and country level	<p>Progress on the implementation of the ‘Delivering as One’ approach and other UNDG-led reform initiatives.</p> <p>AusAID’s support for system-wide coherence and reform through UN fora and Board Meetings to enhance UN coherence, efficiency and effectiveness as well as UNDP’s central role in coordinating UN development efforts.</p> <p>Information on UN reform issues regularly disseminated by AusAID to relevant program staff.</p> <p>AusAID support to ‘Delivering as One’ programs⁵.</p>
UNDP commits itself to participate actively in ‘Delivering as One’ programs; to harmonise its policies, processes and procedures with other UN funds and programs; and to pursue those goals	Number of countries in which UNDP actively participates in the ‘Delivering as One’ approach beyond the established eight One UN pilot programs.

⁵ Sourced from AusAID information

agreed with national Governments at the country level.	
--	--

Shared Objective 4 - To build public awareness of the outcomes of the AusAID–UNDP partnership

AusAID and UNDP acknowledge the important contribution that effective communication and public diplomacy can make to building public support for the partnership and will capitalise on opportunities which contribute to achieving the outcomes of the collaboration. AusAID is committed to building public awareness and understanding of international development assistance and the Australian Government’s aid program. Through appropriate parts of its program of communications and partnership activities, public awareness and understanding of AusAID’s work with UNDP can be achieved.

Partnership commitments	Indicators
AusAID and UNDP will identify and share information about opportunities for building public awareness and understanding of AusAID’s work with UNDP including, where appropriate, publicly showcasing contributions to development issues, particularly in relation to the MDGs.	<p>AusAID and UNDP (with UNIC support) develop an annual plan of awareness raising opportunities and activities.</p> <p>Number of appropriate activities identified, and utilised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in Australia; and -in partner countries.

IV. FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS

AusAID is committed to the provision of core funding to its main partners within the UN system. In light of the Australian Government’s commitment to continue increasing official development assistance (ODA) beyond 2010 so that it reaches the funding target of 0.5 per cent of gross national income (GNI) by 2015, and its commitment to supporting UNDP, AusAID will provide, subject to annual budgetary appropriations by the Australian Government, core funding for UNDP for 2008 until 2011, as per the table below:

2008	AUD 12.5 million
2009	AUD 14.6 million
2010	AUD 17.9 million
2011	AUD 23.3 million

AusAID will provide this funding by 30 September each year into the following account:

UNDP Contributions Account (AU\$)
Account #816601
Reserve Bank of Australia
65 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000
SWIFT: RSBKAU2S

AusAID may, from time to time, make additional contributions to UNDP in accordance with available resources, policy priorities and satisfactory achievement of the partnership commitments made under this Partnership Framework.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTNERSHIP

AusAID and UNDP will pursue this strengthened partnership through a variety of mechanisms, including:

1. Day-to-day interaction via the Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN in New York. At headquarters the relationship will be maintained by means of a focal point within AusAID.
2. AusAID's membership of the UNDP Executive Board. AusAID will use its membership of the Executive Board to take an active and constructive role in the governance of UNDP. At other times it will participate actively within relevant coordination process associated with the Executive Board.
3. Regular high level consultations. Both organisations agree to meet regularly at the Executive level to:
 - a. review implementation of this Partnership Framework
 - b. identify ways to minimise risks to achieving partnership commitments
 - c. review the appropriateness of the strategic objectives and partnership commitments and determine whether changes should be made to these objectives/commitments
 - d. set priorities and a work program for joint work in the coming year
4. Engagement at the country and regional level. AusAID will seek to ensure a coherent approach to UNDP across all of AusAID.
5. The secondment of AusAID staff or the placement of Australians in UNDP offices, and the secondment of UNDP staff to AusAID offices/programs in accordance with the respective regulations and rules of UNDP and AusAID.
6. Joint research and analysis on priority issues.

7. Financial support to specific UNDP programs or thematic funds.
8. Improved harmonisation of AusAID and UNDP programs.
9. The development of joint strategies or approaches.
10. The use of standard documents as agreed between the partners from time to time to limit administrative costs to both partners, including the agreed third party cost-sharing agreement for co-financed activities at Annex 1.

VI. REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

With respect to measuring the performance of UNDP and its programs, AusAID will rely principally on UNDP's own monitoring and evaluation systems, in particular, UNDP's own annual report, the Executive Director's Annual Report to ECOSOC and any reviews of UNDP's Strategic Plan 2008-2011. AusAID will support UNDP's efforts to harmonise donor reporting requirements.

The direct impact of UNDP's field performance will be assessed primarily through UNDP reporting and may be supplemented by AusAID participation in joint field visits with UNDP, as agreed on a case by case basis with AusAID. In the first year of implementation, baseline information to support tracking of progress in indicators will be established as seen appropriate by both partners.

AusAID and UNDP will monitor the program work from the headquarters level via the Permanent Mission in New York and through dialogue and partnership at the country level. Information from both sources will provide material to inform AusAID's participation in the Executive Board.

AusAID will also participate in multi-donor assessment of UNDP via membership of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) and other means, as appropriate.

Under the terms of this Partnership Framework UNDP will agree to cooperate with such multi-donor assessment exercises as are agreed between the partners.

AusAID and UNDP will review this Partnership Framework prior to the conclusion of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2008-2011, and at any other time mutually agreed by both organisations.

A joint assessment of the Partnership Framework will be conducted approximately six months before its end date to determine its value and impact.

VII. DURATION

This Partnership Framework will come into operation on the date of the last signature on the two original copies and expires on 30 June 2015.

VIII. AMENDMENT

This Partnership Framework may be modified in writing with the consent of AusAID and UNDP.

IX. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any disputes arising over the interpretation or application of this Partnership Framework will be resolved through mutual discussion and conciliation.

This Partnership Framework is not an international treaty. It is an administrative arrangement between the Government of Australia and United Nations Development Programme, called a Partnership Framework.

X. TERMINATION

This Partnership Framework will terminate by mutual arrangement between both partners subject to written notice given three months in advance. Upon termination, any unused portion of the contribution other than those irrevocably committed in good faith before the date of termination and those agreed between the two partners as being required to finalise activities shall be returned to AusAID.

XI. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing in or relating to this Partnership Framework shall be deemed a waiver, express, or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

SIGNED in duplicate at New York on the 9th day of December 2008.



Bruce Davis
Director General

For the Australian Agency for
International Development



Kemal Derviş
Administrator

For the United Nations
Development Programme