



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



## *Direct Aid Program Annual Overview*

2014–15



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The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is a small grants program funded from Australia's aid budget. It has the flexibility to work with local communities in developing countries on projects that reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development consistent with Australia's national interest. It sits alongside Australia's longer-term country and multilateral development strategies and with its wide geographical reach, plays an important role in supporting local community efforts towards poverty reduction.

The Direct Aid Program provided \$22 million in Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding in 2014–15 to more than 850 projects in more than 130 developing countries. These projects achieved a range of outcomes in fields including humanitarian relief, education, health, food security, gender equality, human rights and capacity building.

### Guidelines

The program is founded on a set of principles which:

- advance developmental outcomes in countries eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) through projects primarily focused on practical and tangible results
- support Australia's wider foreign and trade policy interests and public diplomacy objectives, including promoting a distinctive and positive image of Australia, and
- allow for a wide geographic reach reflecting that Australia has global interests and that DAP provides a low cost and effective way to build relationships and maintain Australia's profile.

These principles are underpinned by the DAP guidelines. There is no minimum amount that a single DAP project can receive but the maximum is \$60 000 over the life of the project. Activities can run up to a maximum of two years.

[dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/direct-aid-program/Pages/direct-aid-program.aspx](http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/direct-aid-program/Pages/direct-aid-program.aspx)

### Role of Australian Diplomatic Missions in the Direct Aid Program (DAP)

In 2014–15 the program was administered through 66 Australian embassies and High Commissions and delivered by community groups, non-government organisations, not-for-profit private organisations and individuals. Overseas missions have strategies to guide the selection of projects and ensure practical development results with good value for money.

### Who can apply for DAP funding?

Funding is available on a not-for-profit basis to individuals, community groups, NGOs and other entities engaged in development activities in countries that are eligible for ODA. The management of the Direct Aid Program varies from mission to mission. To find out more about how the program is managed in a particular country, please contact the Australian mission overseas that administers DAP in that country (see list below). For Australian mission contact details see:

[dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/Pages/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas.aspx](http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/Pages/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas.aspx).

### International Development Fund (IDF)

The International Development Fund (IDF) is a sub-program of the Direct Aid Program and is managed through Australia's permanent missions to the United Nations in New York, in Geneva and in Vienna, and to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. Along with the founding principles of the program, the IDF helps build support for multilateral agendas that Australia wishes to advance. It supports ODA-eligible projects and those that enable developing countries to participate in international meetings.

### Who can apply for IDF support?

IDF support is available to UN organisations, community groups, NGOs, the private sector or any other not-for-profit organisation. Please contact one of the four Australian missions overseas that manages the IDF program for further detail. For Australian mission contact details see <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/Pages/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas.aspx>

The table below sets out the Australian diplomatic missions that received DAP or IDF allocations in 2015–16, and the countries in which these posts administer the program.

## DAP-eligible countries

Region	Administered Post	Eligible countries / Territories
<b>* The host country does not receive DAP funds</b>		
<b>Africa</b>	Abuja (Nigeria)	Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, The Gambia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Niger, Chad
	Accra (Ghana)	Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
	Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan
	Cairo (Egypt)	Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, Syria
	Harare (Zimbabwe)	Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Congo (Democratic Republic of)
	Lisbon (Portugal)*	Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe
	Nairobi (Kenya)	Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia
	Madrid (Spain)*	Equatorial Guinea
	Port Louis (Mauritius)	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
	Pretoria (South Africa)	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland
<b>South America Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	Brasilia (Brazil)	Brazil
	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay
	Lima (Peru)	Peru, Bolivia
	Mexico City (Mexico)	Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
	Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)*	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname
<b>South and Central Asia</b>	Santiago de Chile (Chile)	Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela
	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	Maldives, Sri Lanka
	Dhaka (Bangladesh)	Bangladesh
	Islamabad (Pakistan)	Pakistan
	Kabul (Afghanistan)	Afghanistan
	Kathmandu (Nepal)	Nepal
	New Delhi (India)	India, Bhutan
	Mumbai (India)	India
<b>South East Asia</b>	Chennai (India)	India
	Bangkok (Thailand)	Thailand
	Dili (East Timor)	East Timor
	Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	Vietnam
	Jakarta, Bali (Indonesia)	Indonesia

Region	Administered Post	Eligible countries / Territories
<b>The Pacific</b>	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	Malaysia
	Manila (Philippines)	Philippines
	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	Cambodia
	Yangon (Myanmar)	Myanmar
	Vientiane (Laos)	Laos
	Apia (Samoa)	Samoa
	Honiara (Solomon Islands)	Solomon Islands
	Nauru (Nauru)	Nauru
	Noumea (New Caledonia)	Wallis and Futuna
	Nuku'alofa (Tonga)	Tonga
	Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia)	Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau
	Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)	Papua New Guinea
	Port Vila (Vanuatu)	Vanuatu
	Suva (Fiji)	Fiji, Tuvalu
<b>Middle East</b>	Tarawa (Kiribati)	Kiribati
	Wellington (NZ)*	Cook Is, Niue
	Amman (Jordan)	Jordan
	Baghdad (Iraq)	Iraq
	Beirut (Lebanon)	Lebanon
	Cairo (Egypt)	Egypt, Syria
	Ramallah (Palestinian Territories)	Palestinian Territories
	Tehran (Iran)	Iran
<b>Europe</b>	Malta*	Tunisia
	Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)*	Yemen
	Ankara (Turkey)	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey
	Belgrade (Serbia)	Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia
	Canakkale (Turkey)	Turkey
	Rome (Italy)*	Albania
	Vienna (Austria)*	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo
<b>North Asia</b>	Kyiv (Ukraine)	Ukraine
	Beijing (China)	China
	Seoul (Republic of Korea)*	Mongolia

### IDF Missions

Region	Administered Post	Eligible countries / Territories
<b>Global/IDF</b>	New York (UN)*	ODA-eligible countries
	Geneva (UN)*	ODA-eligible countries
	Geneva (WTO)*	ODA-eligible countries
	Vienna (UN)*	ODA-eligible countries

## Direct Aid Program –Africa

**In 2014–15, \$5.67 million was provided to 195 Direct Aid Program projects in Africa through our diplomatic missions in Abuja, Accra, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Harare, Lisbon, Madrid, Nairobi, Port Louis and Pretoria. These projects covered 47 countries.**

### Abuja

The Australian High Commission in Abuja provided \$796 670 across 24 projects. Twenty one of these projects were in Nigeria, two in Cameroon and one in The Gambia.

Despite having Africa's largest population (approximately 160 million people) and recently being confirmed as Africa's largest economy, Nigeria continues to have severe development problems. Around 60 per cent of the population continue to live on less than \$2 a day.

Ebola affected Nigeria during the second half of 2014 resulting in several deaths and general fear that the epidemic would be as devastating to the country as it had been to its neighbours. One Direct Aid Program project helped raise community awareness of how the disease was transmitted and the importance of improved hygiene standards in managing the disease. It also trained volunteers to identify symptoms of the disease, contain it and trace those who had come into contact with sufferers. As a result of efforts such as these, Ebola was contained relatively quickly in Nigeria.

The Direct Aid Program also supported the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and helped establish the first ever National Peace Committee in Nigeria which acted as a positive forum for discussion and mediation between political parties in Nigeria's most recent elections. By fostering dialogue the Committee was able to help keep election-related violence to its lowest levels since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999 and produce negotiated solutions to tensions arising from the election results. Three other projects focused on assisting Internally Displaced Persons (of which there are 1.5 million in Nigeria) who were forced to relocate as a result of the Boko Haram conflict in the north-east.

The Direct Aid Program was also able to help improve agricultural practices in Cameroon to combat malnutrition. One project supported the application of a breakthrough cassava processing method, developed at the Australian National University, to remove cyanide from the final product and another helped improve water management in 10 catchments in Buea province allowing sufficient supplies not only for agricultural production but also for household usage.

In The Gambia poverty stricken households were helped to start up community kitchen gardens to supplement their nutritional needs and reduce vulnerability to starvation, a major issue in The Gambia. This was achieved by improving knowledge of soil fertility and through seed exchange programs to make sure the best staple foods could be produced cheaply for communities of the North Bank and Central River Regions.



*Source: Nerve Photos*

*Women are taught to use the 'wetting method' to process cassava. The presence of cyanide in cassava exposes communities in Cameroon to chronic dietary cyanide intoxication which is manifested as konzo and TAN (Tropical Ataxic Neuropathy).*

## Accra

The Australian High Commission in Accra provided funding totalling \$811 164 across 20 projects in Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Mali and Togo. Health and educational services are basic and under-resourced, especially outside major cities in the region and much of the population lacks access to clean water. Diseases such as cholera, malaria, typhoid, hepatitis, and tuberculosis are widespread and often fatal.

Projects focused on women farmers and market women, low income farming and fishing communities, slum dwellers, and people whose lives have suffered through illegal mining. One project in Ghana funded a program to train local experts to critique occupational health and safety management systems and hazards and provide coaching services to local small and medium enterprises. In Liberia, the Direct Aid Program funded a project to help improve the production and marketing of fresh vegetables, fruits and spices in Liberia. This has great income earning potential for low income households in Liberia, particularly for female-headed households.

## Addis Ababa

The Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa provided funds totalling \$378 627 for 10 projects mainly focused on empowering youth. Seven of the projects were funded in Ethiopia and three projects in South Sudan.

Although measures of human development have improved, Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty and food insecurity is concentrated in rural areas. Many rural households are finding it difficult to survive without resorting to seasonal or permanent urban migration in search of wage employment, and support from social safety net programs.

The Direct Aid Program plays an important role in addressing humanitarian hardship in impoverished areas of Ethiopia and South Sudan. Projects focused on supporting schools, strengthening institutions and promoting rural development, protecting children, empowering youth and peacebuilding. One project assisted street boys in Ethiopia to access social support centres so they could return to their communities with skills and education. Another project was able to assist efforts to provide a voice to victims of the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.



Source: Australian High Commission, Accra

Australia supports food production for women by providing them with resources for agriculture extension services in Liberia.

## Cairo

The Australian Embassy in Cairo provided \$400 000 for eight projects—six in Egypt and two in Sudan. Egypt is the largest country in the Middle East and has undergone significant political transition since the beginning of the Arab Spring in 2010–11. The humanitarian situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate, predominately due to armed conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, resulting in millions of internally displaced people (IDPs) and food insecurity.

The Direct Aid Program has helped address humanitarian hardship in impoverished areas of both Egypt and Sudan. Projects focused on enhancing medical services for under-privileged communities, welfare improvement for low income communities and street children as well as activities to support refugees in Egypt and IDPs in Sudan. One project provided funds to help local communities to build foster care and adoption networks in Sudan.



*Source: Australian Embassy, Cairo*  
 Consul Erica Tolano and Third Secretary Ashlee Brady recently visited the Shamaa Organisation, a women's refuge in Khartou, Sudan. The Direct Aid Program provided funding for Hope and Homes for Children which works with local communities to provide support for single mothers and abandoned children.

## Harare

The Australian Embassy in Harare provided \$904 322 for 27 projects in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These countries continue to face significant development challenges in health, education, water and sanitation, gender rights and governance.

Projects under the Direct Aid Program focused on vulnerable and marginalised people, including those living with disabilities, women, children, and remote and economically disadvantaged communities. In Zimbabwe, two neighbouring rural high schools, Siyaphambili and Phakama, received funding for e-learning facilities and science lab fittings respectively. Phakama School, which was previously not registered as an A-level school for science subjects, is now able to offer these subjects and students can be taught and examined on practicals. These successful projects prompted the district education office to organise a learning visit for other school heads in the district to show them alternative ways to secure funding to improve educational infrastructure.



*Source: Australian Embassy, Harare*  
 Ambassador Suzanne McCourt and other dignitaries are shown the bed-chairs in the Harare Children's Hospital during the commissioning of the project.

## Lisbon

The Australian Embassy in Lisbon provided \$149 585 for 22 projects in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe. DAP funded eight projects on a number of Cabo Verde's nine islands, which vary in their levels of development due to the different availability of resources. Guinea-Bissau has a history of political instability which hampers the country's socio-economic development.

The six DAP projects selected for funding in Guinea-Bissau focused on basic needs, such as access to water, education and food production. Eight projects on the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe covered infrastructure (because of the limited transport links), employment opportunities, health standards and education in rural communities.



*Source: Australian Embassy, Lisbon*  
*Donkeys, our friends', Sao Tome and Principe: An unusual project in the small West African island country of São Tomé and Príncipe has not only rescued 15 donkeys from slow and painful deaths from neglect, but has provided training for unemployed youth in animal husbandry and local tourism. Funds from the Direct Aid Program helped the project purchase equestrian and veterinary equipment for 15 donkeys. It included training 16 young people to treat and train the donkeys for tourist activities and agricultural purposes. The project has hosted several visits from schools as part of the students' education.*

## Madrid

The Australian Embassy in Madrid provided \$25 000 for a project in Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish-speaking nation in Africa. The country has experienced recent rapid economic growth, however growth has not been equitable and poverty remains widespread. The Direct Aid Program provided funding to purchase three ultrasound scanners, five portable vascular Doppler machines and five electronic probes for five pre-natal health centres in Equatorial Guinea.

## Nairobi

The Australian High Commission in Nairobi provided \$960 000 for 39 projects in the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia and Burundi. Population growth, conflict, rapid urbanisation and high poverty levels continue to be the chief challenges facing East African countries. In particular east African women face ongoing exclusion from the formal economy, high levels of violence and low representation.

Direct Aid Program projects focused on education and skills development as well as social and economic empowerment of women, people with disabilities and unskilled youth. Projects also enabled electricity to be installed, classrooms, boarding and toilet facilities to be renovated and teaching aids and equipment to be purchased across schools in many rural areas.

One project in Tanzania helped the Nronga Women's Dairy Cooperative Society purchase household biogas systems that use livestock waste to produce cooking gas. The better dairy practices under the project have also increased milk production. Compost from the project dramatically increases farm productivity. This business provides 6000 litres of milk per week to local commercial outlets, a school milk program for six local schools, and is about to join with six other women's cooperatives to expand their business enterprise.



*Source: Nronga Women Dairy Cooperative Society*  
*Project funding supported the Nronga Women's Dairy Cooperative Society Biogas project to construct biodigesters in 25 households of the Nronga Cooperative society in Tanzania, and supported flow-on projects which are benefitting the surrounding community .*

## Port Louis

The Australian High Commission in Port Louis provided \$390 000 for 22 projects in the Indian Ocean Rim countries of Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros. Mauritius has a successful development record, but many challenges remain especially in infrastructure and skilling the workforce. Seychelles is dependent on an economic resurgence in Europe for its tourism industry and remains sensitive to changes in commodity prices. Poverty levels in Madagascar continue to be high. Comoros' economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector and poverty remains widespread.

Direct Aid Program projects focused on supporting vulnerable and marginalised people and particularly on strengthening women's economic empowerment, addressing gender-based violence, education and conservation. One project funded a workshop to measure gender-based violence in the Seychelles, and another on training women and girls as part of a mentoring program for women entrepreneurs. A project in Comoros focused on food security including improving food security and revenues for farmers in the remote province of Anjouan.



Before



After

**Source: The Madagascar Development Fund**  
 Maternity facilities for the population of Igararana (Madagascar) were very basic. The midwife had little equipment, and up to 15 babies were delivered each month on a coffin-like wooden box next to a straw-filled sack on the floor used as the newborn babies' bed. The Direct Aid Program provided funds to build, furnish and equip a small but modern health centre where children are vaccinated and women give birth with dignity in clean, hygienic and safe conditions.

## Pretoria

The Australian High Commission in Pretoria provided \$858 475 for 25 projects across the southern African countries of South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland and Namibia. The main social and economic factors that shape the southern African countries continue to be high unemployment and critical skills shortages, extremely high rates of HIV/AIDS, gender inequality and significant gaps in social services for people living with disabilities.

Direct Aid Program projects focused on improving the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised people. This included projects providing disability aids for children and adults, training health professionals in new forms of therapy and health care awareness for both blindness and cancer in rural communities. Other projects provided resources to improve the schooling experience, and improve the skills of students through exposure to science and maths education and computer skills.

The Direct Aid Program also helped the Smile Foundation to provide life changing facial reconstruction and emergency burns surgery for children from disadvantaged backgrounds from the general Gauteng province in South Africa. Overall, 20 children at the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (Ga-Rankuwa, north of Pretoria) and 27 children at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (Soweto, Johannesburg) received treatment.



**Source: Smile Foundation**  
 HE Mr Adam McCarthy, Australian High Commissioner to South Africa observing plastic surgery specialists performing facial reconstructive surgery on an infant.

## Direct Aid Program –Europe

In 2014-15, Direct Aid Program funding of \$814 000 was provided to 54 projects in Europe through our diplomatic missions in Ankara, Belgrade, Canakkale, Kyiv, Moscow, Rome and Vienna. The projects covered 16 countries.

### Ankara

The Australian Embassy in Ankara funded seven projects in Turkey totalling \$159 000. Since Syria's civil war began in 2011, Turkey has had an open-door policy for Syrian refugees. According to the UNHCR, Turkey has the largest refugee population in the world, including around 45 per cent of all Syrian refugees in the region. Competition for employment, land, housing, water and energy in already vulnerable host communities is straining the ability of these communities to cope with and support the overwhelming numbers.

The Direct Aid Program is helping address humanitarian hardship for some Syrian refugees in impoverished areas of Turkey. Projects focused on education, including funding a child education and culture centre in south-eastern Turkey for Syrian refugees, and a Turkish language training centre in central Anatolia.



*Source: Australian Embassy Ankara*  
Australian Ambassador to Turkey James Larsen and National Education Director of Sanliurfa Metin Ilci with NGO officials and teachers talking to Syrian refugee children at the Direct Aid Program funded 'Children from streets to Classrooms' community centre in Sanliurfa.

### Belgrade

The Australian Embassy in Belgrade provided \$127 700 for 16 projects in Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The Direct Aid Program projects focused on disaster relief projects in Serbia following the severe flooding in May 2014, and media freedom projects in Serbia and Montenegro following an increased number of attacks on journalists in these countries and the introduction of self-censorship. The program also supported projects that focused on the empowerment of women and girls and other vulnerable groups including people with disability, child victims of sexual assault and environmental issues.

The Direct Aid Program funded a project in Serbia providing free legal assistance to citizens, mainly vulnerable groups, to improve their legal status during the flood recovery period. Experiences and legal measures undertaken during the project realisation were published in a manual called 'Days After Manual—legal issues in emergency situations after flooding'.



*Source: Australian Embassy, Belgrade*  
(from left to right – Ms Marija Cvetinovic (Interpreter Municipality of Krupanj), Ms Biljana Bizic (DAP Coordinator, Australian Embassy), Ms Melinda Rio (First Secretary and Consul, Australian Embassy), Ms Ana Redzic (Political Officer, Australian Embassy), Mr Predrag Dimitric (Manager of Eco Bike NGO), Mr Dragan Blagojevic (Director of Primary School Krupanj), HE Ms Julia Feeney (Australian Ambassador), Mr Zeljko Petkovic (Sports Teacher), Ms Branka Silobad (DIBP officer, Australian Embassy), Ms Aleksandra Petkovic (one of the Artists of the mural).

## Canakkale

The Australian Consulate in Canakkale provided \$49 810 for eight small-scale projects in the provinces of Canakkale, Tekirdag, Edirne, Kirklarelli and Balikesir, in European and Western Anatolian Turkey and close to the Anzac battlefields. The Direct Aid Program focused on promoting the role and status of women and improving the living conditions of disadvantaged people, particularly those with disabilities. DAP supported a joint project with the Canakkale Municipality to install access ramps and disabled-accessible children's swing sets around the city, complementing the support the Municipality provides to the Anzac services each year.

In another project, DAP supported a Special Education School providing schooling for mentally disabled children and training for their families. The funds purchased equipment and furniture for the classrooms where students are trained in basic daily life practices such as cooking and cleaning. A third project funded the railing for the school garden to separate the students from a busy road.



*Source: Australian Consulate, Canakkale*

*The Direct Aid Program provided funds to Canakkale Municipality to supply eight permanent ramps for eight local schools identified within the city of Canakkale for wheel chair access, as well as three wheelchair swings for three separate parks in Canakkale.*

## Kyiv and Warsaw

The Australian Interim Embassy in Kyiv and the Australian Embassy in Warsaw provided \$191 386 for four projects in Ukraine. Ukraine is currently in need of assistance following the conflict in eastern Ukraine which resulted in an estimated 1 million internally-displaced persons (IDPs) living in temporary accommodation across the country. The Direct Aid Program funded health projects which addressed the most urgent needs arising from the conflict in the east. One project provided hygiene products to 400 families of IDPs in Kyiv and Odessa regions and medical equipment to a Kyiv city hospital which is treating IDPs. Another project provided social and psychological assistance to IDPs by developing a training program for psychologists and social workers for families, children and youth, social service institutions working with children and their families displaced from temporarily occupied territory and conflict areas. As well as assisting the IDPs, DAP also supported medical training for the newly-established traffic police in Kyiv which supports Ukraine's efforts to rebuild trust in local institutions.

## Moscow

The Australian Embassy in Moscow provided \$142 900 for seven projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are among the poorest post-USSR countries. Their rural areas are much less developed than the key regional cities, and some areas are difficult to access in winter.

The Direct Aid Program focused on projects assisting women in rural areas in both countries. One project funded a NGO in Kyrgyzstan, the Community Development Alliance (CDA), who has helped build two green-house complexes in Naryn and Chui provinces, two bakeries in Naryn province and one bakery in Talas province to help women and their families from very poor regions of Kyrgyzstan achieve sustainable vegetable production and income generation through bakery sales.



*Source: the Community Development Alliance*  
*Australian Embassy staff attend the opening of one of the mini-bakeries funded under the Community Development Alliance through the Direct Aid Program.*

## Rome

The Australian Embassy in Rome provided \$88 000 for six projects in Albania. Many regional areas in Albania remain under-developed and in need of help to provide social and educational services as well as infrastructure works.

The Direct Aid Program funded projects which enhanced Roma identity and promoted equal access in education and strengthened intercultural exchange. One project focused on providing legal aid services to vulnerable women and another on raising people's environmental awareness around Lake Ohrid by distributing leaflets about the importance of keeping the lake clean, providing recycling bins and planting trees.

Another project provided funding to the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (IRCA) to set up and operate a Roma online radio to promote Roma identity and education as well as strengthen intercultural exchange with non-Roma peers. The project also mobilised volunteer engagement of Roma role models in community work. The IRCA project was implemented in 10 Roma neighbourhoods in various regions (Tirana, Durres and Fier).



Source: Australian Embassy, Rome  
 Ambassador Rann gives an interview on the IRCA's online youth radio, which was set up via Direct Aid Program funds to promote Roma identity and education and strengthen intercultural exchange.

## Vienna

The Australian Embassy in Vienna provided \$49 920 for six projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Kosovo. Two of the poorest countries in Europe, these post-war societies are marked by a continuing need to strengthen inter-ethnic relations, as well as to address weak governance and social institutions, and economic and social infrastructure still recovering from the Balkan conflicts in the 1990s.

The Direct Aid Program funded projects supporting work in health, special education and youth development. One particular project supported an NGO which provides special education to meet the needs of children with development disorders.

The funds enabled therapy sessions focused on early intervention, and incorporated training workshops for teachers and education workshops for parents. The Direct Aid Program also supported a youth project by an NGO in Srebrenica (BiH), in time for the 20th anniversary of the genocide that occurred in the town during the Balkan conflicts. The project presented candid video discussions of 100 young people from Srebrenica talking about their everyday lives. It broadcast the voice and hopes of the post-war generation via an online platform, spurring positive activism in a community that remains deeply scarred from the events of 1995. The project was covered widely in the international media, including Al-Jazeera Balkans and the BBC.

Source: Silver Media, Srebrenica

## Direct Aid Program –South America, Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2014–15, \$2.84 million was provided to 100 projects in South America, Latin America and the Caribbean through our diplomatic missions in Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Lima, Mexico City, Port of Spain and Santiago de Chile. These Direct Aid Program projects covered 30 countries.

### Brasilia

The Australian Embassy in Brasilia funded 13 projects totalling \$340 000. Over the last 15 years Brazil has experienced a period of relative stability and seen significant social and economic improvements, but massive inequalities continue to persist. Marginalised groups often have limited education and employment opportunities.

The Direct Aid Program funded a project with the Urece Sports Association to provide cultural and sporting activities for people with visual disabilities. Goalball is played by participants in teams of three, with the aim being to throw a ball (with bells embedded) into the opponents' goal. Players must use the sound of the bell to judge the position and movement of the ball. Program funds were used to purchase equipment designed for the visually impaired including balls and sports shoes. Since the investment of funds, participation rates have increased and injury rates have decreased. Two athletes involved are now preparing to compete at the Paralympic Games in 2016.



*Source: Urece, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
A visually impaired athlete uses Direct Aid Program funded equipment.*



*Source: Vela para todos, Brasilia, Brazil  
The Direct Aid Program funded specifically designed boats for use by disabled people including hopeful Paralympic athletes, the visually impaired, people with intellectual disabilities and for therapeutic purposes for children and adolescents with cancer and other disorders.*

### Buenos Aires

The Australian Embassy in Buenos Aires funded 19 projects totalling \$425 480 in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. Argentina is expected to continue to suffer a slowdown in economic activity. Paraguay relies heavily on its main export, soybeans making it highly susceptible to climate and world price changes. The struggling Argentine economy is expected to weaken Uruguayan manufacturing and services industries.

Direct Aid Program funds in Argentina support projects focusing on education, sports/cultural activities for development and social inclusion. Projects in Paraguay and Uruguay focused on promoting women's economic empowerment and community-based income-generating activities

One project in Paraguay funded the organisation Tierraviva which works with rural indigenous communities in the Paraguayan Chaco to promote sexual and reproductive rights amongst women. Direct Aid Program funds were used to coordinate a general review of their needs and problems, and explore possible solutions within the communities, respecting their traditions and knowledge.

## Lima

The Australian Embassy in Lima funded six projects totalling \$207 500 in Peru and Bolivia.

Peru has experienced strong economic growth during the last decade and Bolivia has presented the highest growth in the region over the last two years. Nevertheless some areas of Peru and Bolivia continue to have alarming poverty rates. Despite a wealth of natural resources and demand for such products, organisational and logistical capacity among local producers is low.

One DAP project in Bolivia is empowering women of three communities around the Salar de Uyuni by helping them add value to their Andean gastronomic products and reach the tourist circuit. In spite of having the highest poverty rates in the country, the Salar is a major tourist destination of Bolivia and receives 158 000 tourists every year.

Another project is located in the Ucayali region, the jungle area of Peru. This project aims to generate economic sustainability and develop life skills among children and young people with disabilities by implementing a vegetable garden and sheds for hens and guinea pigs (sources of protein in Peru) in an education and rehabilitation centre. The beneficiaries will care for the garden and sheds, consume the produce, and sell any surplus in the local markets.



Source: Jorge Yoluride, Refugio de Esperanza Centre  
*Implementación del biohuerto escolar: relatives, teachers and students are cleaning up the patch where the vegetable garden will be.*

## Mexico City

The Australian Embassy in Mexico City funded 22 projects totalling \$669 000 in Mexico, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The number of people living in poverty and the persistent rates of extreme poverty in these countries remains very high. The effects of climate change and natural disasters in the area are also increasing and threaten the region's environmental and economic base. Security remains a challenge to development in the area.

Guatemala ranks among the ten most violent countries in the world, the proliferation of guns undermines human rights, public health and development. Gunshot is the primary cause of spinal cord injury, and the health and welfare systems provide little or no support for people with paraplegia or quadriplegia. Direct Aid Program funds were used to purchase wheelchairs to assist victims of gun violence.

Several projects focused on women's economic empowerment, including funding to the Instituto de Liderazgo Simone de Beauvoir to run a Productive Capacities for Imprisoned Women Workshop in Santa Martha Acatitla prison in Mexico City. The purpose of the project was to provide sewing training to 16 women prisoners to generate income in jail and develop skills to facilitate their reintegration into society upon their release.



Source: Transitions Association  
*The Direct Aid Program provided funding to Transitions Association to build wheelchairs for the Transiciones basketball team (many are members of the Guatemalan national team), which is based on Antigua, Guatemala.*

## Port of Spain

The Australian High Commission in Port of Spain funded 26 projects totalling \$900 000 across 10 Caribbean Islands (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname). Development levels vary across the islands of the Caribbean with a number of islands still being classified as underdeveloped. Health care issues are widespread with inadequate health education and access to proper nutrition and facilities. High crime levels, minimal technological and economic growth, unpredictable weather conditions, and inadequate social services are some of the additional factors which impinge on growth.

The Direct Aid Program projects focused on areas including health (with funding going to cervical cancer screening and education, and improving maternal and infant health care in northern Haiti), agriculture (with funding going to water conservation and aquaculture), and food security.

The program also provided funding to the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)—Blood Pressure Control Through Community Action project which focused on hypertension control in Haiti, St Vincent and The Grenadines, St. Lucia, Jamaica and Dominica. Another project encouraged primary school children to participate in a physical jump rope activity to reduce their risk of contracting non-communicable diseases. In Belize, a pilot project is being developed in coral reef ecology.

The island of Carriacou, a dependant of Grenada, relies solely on rain water harvesting. The Hillsborough Secondary School received funding to refurbish an existing cistern on the school's compound. In times of low rainfall, the school's cistern is the main source of water for households, the hospital and the wider community.



Source: Paul Hamlet

The refurbished cistern complete with guttering to capture rainwater.

## Santiago

The Australian Embassy in Santiago funded 17 projects totalling \$300 000 in Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. These countries continue to experience poverty and significant income inequality. The Direct Aid Program funded projects that benefitted women, children, people with disabilities and the elderly, as well as funding disaster-relief efforts.

In Ecuador, Direct Aid Program funds were used to construct 30 ecologically sustainable toilets. The local community was closely involved in the project design and construction, together with volunteers from different parts of Ecuador. In addition to improved sanitary facilities within the community, the project also provided privacy and dignity, increased understanding of soil fertility and nutrient recycling, and developed skills for the community and volunteers to apply in future sanitation infrastructure.



Source: ECHO Ecuador

Community members and a volunteer pose next to a completed ecologically sustainable toilet. Guayas Province, Ecuador

## Direct Aid Program –Middle East

In 2014–15, \$1.39 million was provided to 51 projects in the Middle East through our diplomatic missions in Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Malta, Ramallah, Riyadh and Tehran. These projects covered eight countries.

### Amman

The Australian Embassy in Amman funded nine projects in Jordan totalling \$324 813. In recent years Jordan has seen a massive influx of refugees from the conflict in Syria and this has been in addition to the already large resident Palestinian and Iraqi refugee populations from earlier regional conflicts. This sudden influx has put a heavy strain on a developing country with few natural resources or major industries to generate revenues for the government. The Direct Aid Program funded several projects targeting the refugee population from current and previous conflicts in the region. One project focused on providing music workshops for residents of Azraq refugee camp (Syrian) to provide activities and psychological support to counter the effects of the trauma of war, dislocation and unemployment. Another project funded the purchase of a machine for rapid TB diagnosis for vulnerable refugee camp residents in north Jordan.



Source: Tulio Santos, Capoeira4Refugees  
First class, Azraq Refugee Camp

### Baghdad

The Australian Embassy in Baghdad provided \$100 000 for three small-scale projects in Iraq. The security environment continues to challenge the Iraqi population. Absolute standards of living are declining. Iraqi women, children and people with disabilities are particularly vulnerable. Two of the three projects funded through the Direct Aid Program focused on small-scale income generation by training socially disadvantaged women. A third project providing vocational training to internally displaced and unemployed men and women.



Source: Akad Cultural Institute  
A small-scale income-generation project to fund the purchase of sewing machines and training for a group of 75 socio-economically disadvantaged women in Babel Province.

### Beirut

The Australian Embassy in Beirut funded 14 small-scale projects in Lebanon totalling \$377 100. The humanitarian and security environment continues to challenge the country. Since the outbreak of war in neighbouring Syria, Syrian and Palestinian refugees from Syria have become a major humanitarian and economic concern for Lebanon.

The Direct Aid Program funded several health projects including supporting a health care centre that offers curative and preventive health services, education and financial aid to disadvantaged people (both Lebanese and refugees) in the Hadath region. Funding purchased ocular medical equipment to improve the range of health care services provided at the centre.



Source: Australian Embassy, Beirut.  
Ambassador Glenn Miles and medical staff from the ILDES Health Center inspect ophthalmological equipment purchased with DAP funding.

## Malta

The Australian High Commission in Malta funded one project in Tunisia for \$28 454. Tunisia still faces a number of socio-economic challenges with high youth unemployment and a stagnated economy.

The DAP project targeted grass roots assistance to the community by funding the establishment of a home for three orphaned children and a single mother and child. Some of the children also have disabilities. Funding enables these children to have a home, attend school and participate in sporting and social activities, significantly improving their overall quality of life.

## Ramallah

The Australian Representative Office in Ramallah provided \$344 669 for 15 small-scale projects across all parts of the Palestinian Territories including Gaza and the rural areas of the West Bank. The economy of the West Bank and Gaza continues to face serious risks and a slowdown in economic growth, reflecting the impact of uncertainty regarding the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and a sharp deterioration of economic conditions in Gaza.

The Direct Aid Program was able to offer short term support to reinforce community level institutions contributing to peaceful state-building activities. One particular project funded vocational training programs for deaf adults to enable them to become more self-sufficient in the local economy.



*Source Australian Embassy, Tel Aviv*

*From left to right: Instructor, Tom Wilson (Head of Australian Representative Office, Ramallah), cameraman (Future Society); Mervat Ziadeh (Scholarship and DAP Officer); deaf adults. The Direct Aid Program funded a project in Gaza providing vocational training for the deaf.*

## Tehran

The Australian Embassy in Tehran provided \$150 100 for nine small-scale projects in Iran, many of which supported Afghan refugees in Iran. The problem of drugs remains a serious challenge in Iran.

The DAP program supported a range of projects focusing on treating drug addicts and implementing public health and education programs targeting substance abuse. The empowerment of women was also a common theme in many projects noting that significant political, economic and cultural barriers to gender equality still exist in Iran, particularly among Afghan refugees and other vulnerable groups.

One project helped construct a children's playground within an Afghan refugee settlement in Kerman. Funding also provided 300 hygiene kits to Afghan refugees in Qom to help improve sanitary conditions and prevent disease.



*Source Australian Embassy Tehran*

*The Tehran based Mehr House provides education and social support for first and second grade primary school children from disadvantaged backgrounds (predominantly Afghan refugees). DAP funded the acquisition of textbooks, furniture and office equipment for the Mehr Kindergarten.*

## Riyadh

The Australian Embassy in Riyadh funded two small-scale projects in Yemen totalling \$69 930. The civil conflict in Yemen has escalated in the past year and has drawn in neighbouring countries. Consequently, there is an unfolding humanitarian crisis in Yemen with many Yemenis not able to access sufficient food, water or medical care.

the Direct Aid Program funded a project administered by CARE International to provide materials for graduates of vocational training programs to help them start their own businesses. The program also funded a project administered by World Relief Germany to construct and repair cisterns in Hajjah.

## Direct Aid Program – Pacific

**In 2014–15, our diplomatic missions in Apia, Honiara, Nauru, Noumea, Nuku'alofa, Pohnpei, Port Moresby, Port Vila, Suva, Tarawa, and Wellington provided \$2.4 million for 181 projects in the Pacific region.**

### Apia

The Australian High Commission in Apia, Samoa, provided \$243 675 for 21 projects. Funding went to small-scale projects focusing on the most disadvantaged groups in Samoa across the two main islands of Upolu and Savaii. These projects supported small communities by providing reading materials and playground equipment for schools, and equipment and vocational training to help women in rural areas pursue income earning opportunities. Canteen and toilet facilities were also constructed in two primary schools.

Cyclone Evan struck in December 2012 and the high winds and flooding caused considerable damage to buildings and infrastructure. Manono, which was affected during Cyclone Evan, is a small island remotely located four kilometres off Upolu's south-eastern coast. The Lepuai Manono Preschool buildings and educational resources were damaged during the cyclone. The Direct Aid Program provided funding for the preschool to replace desks and chairs, books and materials.



*Source: Samoa Observer*

*Direct Aid Program funds were used to purchase building materials to construct new hygienic sanitation facilities for teachers and students to help ensure safety and minimise or prevent health risks. The projects are supported by the Samoa Ministry of Health and meet the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture Minimum Service Standards which stipulate the need for schools to have a safe and healthy learning environment which is conducive to student learning. Water is also limited in both these rural areas and Direct Aid Program -funded water tanks will be installed and connected to the sanitation facilities to ensure hygiene and minimise health risks.*

### Honiara

The High Commission in Honiara, Solomon Islands, provided \$336 000 for 17 small-scale projects in seven of Solomon Islands' nine provinces. Many Solomon Islanders live in village communities where infrastructure is still quite basic and income-earning opportunities are limited.

Direct Aid Program funding has been used to assist Solomon Islanders living in the country's most disadvantaged and isolated areas with some of their most basic needs. This assistance provided sustainable solar power for people living in Makira Province, eliminating their reliance on imported fuels and helping local students to study at night. In other areas, funding has supported schools by constructing classrooms, water supply and sanitation facilities. A School in Guadalcanal received water tanks to help address the water supply issues facing students, staff and residents.

DAP funding also focused on creating income generating opportunities to lift Solomon Islanders out of poverty. Funding provided two women's agricultural groups with farming tools and training so they could produce more vegetables for consumption and sale. In Guadalcanal and Malaita provinces, this assistance improved facilities for two Rural Training Centres providing practical training in farming skills.



*Source: Australian High Commission Honiara*

*The Tiaro Bay Women's Farm Tools Project received Direct Aid Program funding to provide 30 families with farming tools and training to develop a sustainable, self-sufficient agricultural group. The project has transformed food production in the area.*

## Nauru

The Australian High Commission in Nauru provided \$15 000 for five small-scale projects in four districts of Nauru. Direct Aid Program projects focused on community health, environment and women's affairs. One project supported the Nauru Scouts Association to purchase equipment for the 'Let's Clean Up Nauru' program which teaches young people to value the environment and take practical steps towards a cleaner island for all Nauruans. Another project provided the Department of Women's Affairs with funding to develop an information stall to use at public events to highlight the community services they provide such as a safehouse shelter for women and children. Using the information stall, they have showcased their work on occasions like Home Affairs Day, Public Service Day and International Women's Day.

## Noumea

The Australian Consulate-General in Noumea supports economic development on the small islands of Wallis and Futuna through the Direct Aid Program. Wallis and Futuna is an Overseas Territory of France. Local economic activity is limited to traditional subsistence agriculture, handicraft, fishing and some livestock breeding (mainly pigs). The association L'Île aux Oiseaux received \$8 250 in DAP funding to purchase equipment to build a 10 metre long pirogue (traditional fishing boat).



*Source: L'Île aux Oiseaux*  
Direct Aid Program funds helped purchase equipment to build a traditional Wallisian fishing boat to assist in sustaining the economic future.

## Nuku'alofa

The Australian High Commission in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, provided \$116 760 for 23 projects. Forty-five of Tonga's islands are inhabited with 70 per cent of Tongans live on Tongatapu. Funding went to projects on Tongatapu, Vava'u and the Niua islands. Seven projects related to improving water storage and water supply infrastructure for a range of educational facilities and community centres. DAP also by partnered with four local disability service providers to help improve infrastructure, deliver therapeutic equipment and conduct community outreach. Education remained a key focus with support provided to nine educational facilities to improve safety, security, infrastructure, hygiene and deliver healthy lifestyles programs.

## Pohnpei

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei provided \$190 000 for 20 small-scale projects in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Republic of Palau. These small island states face a number of major development challenges because of their small land mass and population, narrow economic base and geographic isolation. The Direct Aid Program funded several projects addressing gender equality, including producing fitness DVDs that will be distributed to women and girls who are not able to attend classes due to lack of time, resources or cultural reasons. Other projects focused on community development, health, sports diplomacy, economic diplomacy and disability.



*Source: Australian Embassy Pohnpei*  
The Australian Embassy provided funds to the Sounahleng Women in Action group under the Direct Aid Program which purchased nine new sewing machines and fabric for 14 of the women in Sounahleng Women in Action group to participate in a three-week sewing training program.

## Port Moresby

The Australian High Commission in Port Moresby funded 14 DAP projects totalling \$228 716 in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Over the last 12 years PNG's economy has grown strongly but the country still faces significant development challenges. A rapidly growing population, lack of infrastructure, and poor health, education and law and justice services are challenges to PNG's future prosperity. Direct Aid Program funding has been used to assist Papua New Guineans with basic needs in regional areas, including better water supply and income generation opportunities. The program helped install water tanks and distribute school books in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and expand fish farming and cocoa drying in villages in Morobe Province.



**Source:** Ness Kerton

*This DAP project supported a series of training workshops to help 35 jewellery artisans in the New Ireland Province of PNG to improve their livelihoods. The training in handicrafts and jewellery-making using mother of pearl was delivered by an Australian Business Volunteer to the Nusalik community as part of an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) project which supported the development of the pearl industry in the western Pacific. The assistance has enabled the artisans, most of whom are women, to learn new skills to increase their income generating opportunities from selling shell jewellery to tourists.*

## Port Vila

The Australian High Commission in Port Vila supported 26 projects on eight islands across Vanuatu to a total value of \$199 772. The majority of the population live in rural and remote locations and rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. There are high rates of unemployment, particularly among youth, both in rural areas and in Port Vila and Luganville. The DAP program works to improve living standards and generate income to support sustainable community development. The economic impact of Tropical Cyclone Pam has been profound. Tourism and agriculture suffered after the cyclone and both sectors are now focus areas for development funding. Direct Aid Program funding has provided four rural communities in Efate with water tanks to give them clean water storage after Cyclone Pam. The program will continue to provide help to cyclone-affected areas.



**Source:** James Aru

*Ms Alina Herrington Tabi, the a ni Vanuatu Missionary from the island of Ambae, presenting her speech at the opening of the water tanks project. Ms Tabi worked with the local community on the island of Batmanrin to improve health and living standards. The community received Direct Aid Program funds for two water tanks and building materials to provide a safe, reliable source of clean drinking water for the community, which would in turn produce positive health outcomes. Local church groups in Port Vila co-funded the project which was completed and officially opened on 24 May 2015.*

## Suva

The Australian High Commission in Suva provided \$900 000 for 47 projects in Fiji and Tuvalu.

While Fiji's economy continues to grow strongly, particularly in tourism, there are still significant challenges faced by people living in rural areas. In Fiji, the Direct Aid Program funded projects that focused on economic empowerment, particularly of women. One project assisted the Delana Mudremudre Kei Delaitokatoka Women's Club to expand its members' artisan range of weaving and access to markets. Following Fiji's election, Direct Aid Program funds supported the Young Fijian Leaders Parliament Forum to hold the first National Youth Parliament since 2006. DAP also assisted Australian Football League Fiji's 'BULA KICK' program to encourage children and young people to participate in health, fitness and lifestyle programs.

Tuvalu faces significant social and economic problems, mainly as a result of its small population, geographic isolation, lack of arable land and under-developed communication network. The DAP funded projects in Tuvalu focused on building community spaces, including transporting gym equipment and improving the water supply to the Lima Malosi Vaitupu Health and Fitness Centre.



Source: *Aspire Network*

*The Australian High Commission used Direct Aid Program funding to support the Young Fijian Leaders Parliament Forum after the 2014 Election, educating young Fijian leaders on the role and responsibilities of members of Parliament and on how to hold their public members accountable*

## Tarawa

The Australian High Commission in Tarawa provided \$110 000 for 10 projects in Kiribati. A remote country of 33 scattered coral atolls, Kiribati has few natural resources and is one of the least developed Pacific island countries.

In 2014–15 the Direct Aid Program prioritised education and health projects with a focus on the outer islands which are the most disadvantaged communities in Kiribati. There is no surface water and people rely on wells and scarce rainwater for all their needs. Water tanks are not common as most houses have thatched roofs, and while communal buildings such as schools might have suitable roofs, few outer island schools have tanks. DAP providing funds for communal rainwater harvesting on three outer islands—two atolls affected by Cyclone Pam and a third small islet which has no groundwater.

## Wellington

The Australian High Commission in Wellington funded two projects on the Cook Islands totalling \$13 000. The Cook Islands' economy faces many of the development challenges common to other small island states including relatively limited natural resources, remoteness from major trade and industrial centres, and a diminishing labour force.

Direct Aid Program projects focused on remote island communities on Atiu which has a population of 470 people. The first project funded a water tank for a remote community hall in Mapumai village. There is no tap water available on the island and the community is wholly reliant on water tanks to supply fresh water. The tank provides drinking water for those using the community hall, as well as a backup for residential households in times of need. A second project developed a radio broadcasting capability for the primary school on Atiu Island.

## Direct Aid Program – South and Central Asia

**In 2014–15, our diplomatic missions in Colombo, Chennai, Dhaka, Islamabad, Kabul, Kathmandu, New Delhi and Mumbai spent \$3.05 million on 117 projects in South and Central Asia.**

### Colombo

The High Commission in Colombo provided \$400 000 for 17 projects in Sri Lanka. Six years after the end of the long-running civil conflict, there are still major challenges facing the country and its people, particularly resettling internally displaced persons (IDPs) and helping them return to sustainable lives, developing local infrastructure and rebuilding confidence among communities.

The Direct Aid Program targeted the northern and eastern provinces most affected by the former conflict. Projects focused on infrastructure, gender issues, health, sports diplomacy, assisting people with disabilities, and capacity building. Several projects, including one in the Jaffna district, supported the rural poor with livelihood opportunities for women-headed families, especially in areas where former IDPs have returned for resettlement. DAP funded the 'Reconciliation through Sports' cricket tournament for the youth from the northern and eastern provinces. The tournament brought together village-level youth teams representing their communities. The aim of the tournament was to bring the excitement and spirit of the ICC Cricket World Cup to these communities, while also promoting social cohesion, dialogue, reconciliation and new friendships. The training, games and coaching camps provided a great opportunity for the players to not only develop their skills but to bond with their teammates and opponents over a shared passion for cricket.



*Source: Australian High Commission, Sri Lanka*  
 High Commissioner Robyn Mudie and the Hon Arjuna Ranatunga, Minister of Ports, Shipping and Aviation and former captain of the Sri Lankan cricket team, launched the 'Reconciliation through Sports' competition on 10 February 2015.

### Dhaka

Demonstrating that small sums can go a long way, the Australian High Commission in Dhaka used the Direct Aid Program to address some of the small-scale humanitarian need that endures amid Bangladesh's declining poverty and solid economic growth. The Australian High Commission in Dhaka provided just under \$450 000 to 13 non-government organisations with projects including skills development for women and girls in indigenous communities, prevention of accidental child poisoning and corrective treatment for children born with clubfoot. The latter project, provided to the successful Walk For Life initiative, will help treat almost 500 children over two years and train Bangladesh doctors and orthopaedic surgeons in clubfoot remediation. The Bangladesh Government recently gave Walk For Life 'national program' status in recognition of its achievements across Bangladesh.



*Source: Australian High Commission, Dhaka*  
 Ambassador Greg Wilcock with 'Walk For Life' beneficiaries (children in treatment and their mothers) in Jessore, Bangladesh.

## Islamabad

The Australian High Commission in Islamabad provided \$460 000 for 17 projects across five provinces in Pakistan. Pakistan continues to face security and economic challenges with close to 40 per cent of the country's population reportedly living below the poverty line.

The Direct Aid Program funded projects in the areas of human rights; education; health; water and sanitation (WASH); livelihood earning opportunities; and community capacity building (agriculture, skills development, and self-employment). It provided funds for disaster relief projects in two districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), providing necessary medical, food and other household supplies. With power outages having a major negative impact on daily life in Pakistan, several renewable energy projects were designed to supply uninterrupted power to students throughout the year in two remote regions with extreme weather conditions.



*Source: Australian High Commission, Islamabad*  
 Meeting ends through alternative means—the Direct Aid Program funded the installation of solar energy generation infrastructure at a public school, Larkana (Sindh, Pakistan).



*Source: Ms Nageen Hyat, Executive Director, Nomad Gallery*  
 A participant at a 'learn and earn' training session during the 'Art for Change—Ending Gender-Based Violence, Empowering Women' project at Nomad Art Centre, Islamabad (Pakistan).

## Kabul

The Australian Embassy in Kabul provided \$162 700 to seven projects located in Kabul, Jalalabad City, and Ghor, Herat and Panjshir provinces in Afghanistan.

Despite many security challenges, each of the seven projects had a positive impact on the local communities around which the projects were centred. The majority of Direct Aid Program funds were spent on education and training programs with a focus on women's economic empowerment. Although small in scale, these projects have helped participants by improving their employability and ability to generate income. DAP also funded a construction project to rebuild a new roof for a girls' school, the previous roof having been destroyed due to heavy snow and an avalanche, which will have a lasting positive impact on the school.



*Source: Development Organisation for Economic Improvement*  
 The Development Organisation for Economic Improvement received DAP funding to train girls in finance and accounting, reporting and project management to give them the skills necessary to work in an NGO or private company

## Kathmandu

The Australian Embassy in Kathmandu provided \$531 000 for 17 projects in Nepal focusing on health, education, hydroelectricity, forestry regeneration and sustainable management, civil aviation, and livestock and grain management.

In the aftermath of the earthquakes on 25 April and 12 May 2015, Direct Aid Program funding to the Himalayan Rescue Association (HRA) proved crucial in coping with the sudden surge of earthquake survivors in the Everest region. The HRA Medical Outpost in Pheriche along the trekking route to the Everest Base Camp (EBC) and a temporary medical outpost at the EBC provided essential medical care to the victims of the earthquakes, both Nepalese locals and tourists. Another project reached out to the earthquake survivors to provide them with much need psycho-social counselling.

The Direct Aid Program also funded nearly 20 000 children to have their hearing and ear health screened, 5000 women to have breast and cervical cancer screening, and health workers in three districts to be trained to identify obstetric fistula. Journalists working in the districts and teachers in remote district of Myagdi also received Right to Information and teacher training through Direct Aid Program funding.



*Source: Himalayan Rescue Association*

*Late in 2014, the Himalayan Rescue Association (HRA) received DAP funding to upgrade their medical outpost in Pheriche. In the aftermath of the earthquakes on 25 April and 12 May 2015, this HRA Pheriche medical outpost, which is located on the Everest Base Camp trekking route, provided essential medical care to earthquake victims.*

## New Delhi

The Australian High Commission in New Delhi provided \$600 000 to support 27 projects across northern India and Bhutan. Despite strong economic performance, more than one-fifth of the population falls beneath India's official poverty line. Corruption and poor implementation remain major challenges. Rates of gender-related violence remain high and social stigma makes divorce or unmarried life difficult.

The Direct Aid Program focused on projects supporting women's empowerment and gender equality as well as health, disability, water and disaster relief. The 'Oz Haat Mela', a family-orientated market day hosted annually at the Australian High Commission, provides an opportunity for local NGOs to raise funds for their ongoing programs. In 2015, Oz Haat Mela attracted 2700 people to the Australian High Commission and raised more than \$15 000 for almost 50 NGOs.

The Direct Aid Program also provided funding to ActionAid to deliver disaster relief material to people affected by the September 2014 Jammu and Kashmir floods. ActionAid targeted underprivileged and vulnerable families, prioritising widow-headed households and others considered most vulnerable.



*Source: Action Aid*

*DAP provided funds to ActionAid to deliver disaster relief material to people affected by the September 2014 Jammu and Kashmir floods. ActionAid targeted underprivileged and vulnerable families, prioritising widow-headed households and others considered most vulnerable.*

## Chennai

The Australian Consulate General in Chennai provided \$200 000 for 12 projects in Southern India. Particular development challenges faced in southern India include education, health care, women's rights, child and maternal health, poor infrastructure, environmental concerns and human trafficking.

The Direct Aid Program focused on community health including four projects with India Vision Institute providing vision screening for school children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds across districts in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, and victims of the cyclone Hud Hud in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Other projects focused on governance and human rights, environmental sustainability with a development focus (irrigation, urban planning and rejuvenation and water conservation), women's empowerment and gender equality, road safety, and small-scale infrastructure projects.



*Source: Graham Crouch (DFAT contracted photographer)  
Students testing positive for poor eyesight receive spectacles from Hon Julie Bishop, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, during her visit to Chennai in April 2015.*

*The DAP-funded project targets disadvantaged children between the ages of 4 and 15 from selected schools to have their vision screened and refractive errors diagnosed. Those students who need them are provided with free spectacles to help address those errors.*

## Mumbai

The Australian Consulate General in Mumbai provided \$246 958 for 12 projects in Maharashtra, India. Although Maharashtra is one of the most developed states in India, a large number of children are malnourished and uneducated and the state frequently faces water shortages. In most regions, health care and women's access to work opportunities are limited.

The Direct Aid Program supported several projects focused on women's empowerment, including funding to provide sustainable livelihoods to 20 underprivileged women from Shivaji Nagar, Maharashtra to train them to run small businesses. Other projects focused on waste management, sanitation, disability and renewable energy.

## Direct Aid Program – South East Asia

In 2014–15, \$3.36 million was provided for 152 projects in South East Asia through our diplomatic missions in Bali, Bangkok, Dili, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Phnom Penh, Rangoon and Vientiane.

### Bali

The Consulate General in Bali funded 16 projects in the poorer areas of the Indonesian provinces of Bali and Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB) totalling \$168 300. The remote areas of Bali and the province of NTB face significant economic challenges, including limited access to basic health care, clean water, education, employment, transport and other infrastructure.

Two DAP projects directly supported the empowerment of women and girls, including supporting a sexual and reproductive health facility for low-income women in remote areas of Bali. One DAP project was based in the popular area of Ubud where traditional land use is being rapidly overrun by tourist development. Sawah Bali developed a pilot site in this area to demonstrate that traditional and sustainable use of the land, through the Subak system (a UNESCO World Heritage listed sustainable rice water management system) can provide an economically viable alternative to farmers selling their land. This project involved deep discussions with the local community. The Direct Aid Program provided funds for soil, feed, livestock, plants, irrigation systems, compost systems, seeds and photo and video documentation of the project.



Source: Australian Consulate General, Bali  
The Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Paul Grigson, visited a Direct Aid Program project based near Ubud, Bali in July 2015.

### Jakarta

The Australian Embassy in Jakarta provided \$420 000 for 13 projects in Indonesia. More than half the projects were in eastern Indonesia, the least developed region in the Indonesian archipelago.

The Direct Aid Program provides valuable assistance to Indonesian communities, particularly in poorer regional areas, by providing funding to support basic education, health care reform and small-scale infrastructure. The projects in eastern Indonesia were designed to support better health and sanitation outcomes for local communities, and to empower and improve the livelihoods of women and children. The program included a project providing 'starter kits' to 'wonder women' in East Flores to start up micro-businesses, and supported a pilot community health development program in West Papua to provide community health promotion activities on issues including maternal and child health, nutrition, malaria, HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB.

In Java the focus was on supporting development activities that promoted religious tolerance and conflict prevention, along with other local community initiatives. Several projects purchased books for libraries at six pesantren (Islamic religious schools) in Banten Province in West Java. The books will improve the quality of teaching materials and promote open-mindedness and inter-religious tolerance within the school community. Funds also supported a community health, nutrition and early childhood program in north Jakarta and improved the livelihood of village farmers in Central Java by developing eco-spices farming. The farms promote the use of organic fertilisers, quality control of raw materials (turmeric, ginger etc) for processing into traditional medicines, and product certification.



Source: Australian Embassy, Jakarta  
A welcome ceremony for the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia to a pesantren (Islamic boarding school) in Banten, West Java. DAP funded the purchase of books the region through the Nurcholish Madjid Society, an Indonesian NGO which promotes moderate Islam and aims to encourage religious tolerance and open-mindedness.

## Dili

The Australian Embassy in Dili provided \$220 000 for four projects in Timor-Leste. Since gaining its independence in 1999, Timor-Leste has faced the challenges of rebuilding its infrastructure, strengthening the civil administration, and generating jobs for young people entering the work force.

Direct Aid Program funding is helping Timor-Leste improve basic education, skills and employment opportunities. The funded projects focused on supporting youth empowerment and leadership, preventing corruption, monitoring peace and security and assessing literacy rates.



*Source: Australian Embassy, Dili*

*The Youth Leadership Academy received \$60 000 in Direct Aid Program funding to bring together 25 emerging young leaders from Timorese youth organisations for a public policy and advocacy skills program. The program helped meet the critical need for genuine opportunities for youth leadership development in Timor-Leste.*

## Hanoi

The Australian Embassy in Hanoi funded 15 projects totalling \$260 000. Grants were provided to projects in 11 of Vietnam's northern provinces.

Projects focused on community-driven activities and provided support across a range of areas including health, education, agricultural and rural livelihoods development, water and sanitation and gender equality and women's empowerment. The Direct Aid Program is a small but important part of Australia's strong and dynamic relationship with Vietnam which spans political, economic, security and development cooperation and is underpinned by warm and growing people-to-people links.



*Source: Australian Embassy, Hanoi*

*The Son Loc Commune Peasants' Association received in Direct Aid Program funding to rebuild a foot bridge to reconnect a local community with their cultivation land, and provide training on cultivation techniques.*



*Source: Youth Union of Tien Lang District*

*This project was implemented by the Tien Lang Youth Union with a large number of youth union members and local school children participating. The project helped raise the awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and keeping it clean. The mangrove forest will help to protect the livelihoods of local people whose fisheries and farm land are frequently damaged by flooding.*

## Ho Chi Minh City

The Australian Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City provided \$358 240 for 22 projects in 13 provinces in southern Vietnam. Vietnam's economy has grown substantially over the last few decades with an increased focus on manufacturing and services industries, however agriculture still accounts for some 70 per cent of employment. DAP targeted areas which are most in need of assistance to improve health, education and livelihoods development, as well as focusing on infrastructure and the environment. Two projects funded medical equipment for two hospitals located in rural areas which will have a positive impact on the local community into the future



*Source: VinaCapital foundation*

*Consul General, John McAnulty visited Khanh Hoa Hospital which received DAP funding to purchase a ventilator and infusion pumps for their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Khanh Hoa is the only hospital in central Vietnam with a NICU and the purchase of this equipment is expected to save the lives of more than 50 babies a year.*

## Kuala Lumpur

The Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur (KL) funded four projects in Malaysia totalling \$94 484. Levels of development differ across the country, with poverty higher in rural and remote areas. DAP projects targeted reconstruction relief and rehabilitation, and women's equality.

One project assisted recovery activities in remote communities affected by the 2014 east coast flood through a series of community-based disaster and first aid training sessions focusing on managing evacuation centres, boat handling, early warning systems, food supply and psychological support. Another suite of projects focused on women's equality and reducing discrimination, increasing knowledge among future legal practitioners of Syariah and women's rights in Islam, providing information on women's choices around wearing Hijab and modest dress code in Malaysia, and encouraging law reform around justice and equality to Muslim women.

## Manila

The Australian High Commission in Manila funded 15 projects totalling \$259 980 across the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda, November 2013) killed more than six thousand people and displaced more than four million. Decades of violent conflict have left large parts of Mindanao trapped in vicious cycles of poor governance and under-development, and have threatened regional stability.

Direct Aid Program funds helped purchase materials for the construction of community-based livelihood/training facilities (such as a herbal drying facility, school canteen storage area, greenhouses/nurseries, community bakery, a fish drying facility, a duck hatchery and breeding facility, rain shelter facility, among others), and educational/health facilities (classrooms, dental clinic, playground). Funds were also used to purchase equipment to support agricultural production activities, public school canteen operation (kitchen and food processing equipment/appliances), women's enterprise development, and to produce learning materials and workbooks to help students' understanding and application of nutrition and urban farming.

## Phnom Penh

The Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh provided \$451 560 for eight projects in Cambodia. The Cambodian economy remains narrowly based on a few key sectors rendering it vulnerable to external shocks.

The Direct Aid Program continues to help Cambodian communities by supporting health improvement activities including preventing childhood blindness and enhancing mental health literacy. It also supported other areas including gender violence awareness initiatives, vocational training for juvenile prisoners and human rights advocacy projects.



*Source: Australian Embassy, Cambodia*

*Launch of the 'Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities: A Pilot Project to Support Victims' project by Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Natasha Stott Despoja, on 6 February 2015 at the Action on Disability and Development (ADD) International in Phnom Penh.*

## Yangon

The Australian Embassy in Yangon provided \$373 700 for ten projects in Myanmar. In many areas, particularly in border regions, communities continue to be affected by underdevelopment and unemployment, poor health and education standards, high levels of preventable diseases and armed conflict.

The Direct Aid Program provides resources to directly benefit the most disadvantaged groups and communities in Myanmar. The program prioritised civil society capacity building in recognition of civil society's key role in the country's social and economic reform and in response to the significant capacity constraints faced by civil society organisations. Special attention was also given to activities that addressed gender equality, women's empowerment and the needs of children, youth and disadvantaged groups.



Source: Colorful Girls NGO

*Hanging posters and drawings on how to recognize your own prejudices.*

*'Colorful Girls' received DAP funds to carry out two six-day, structured, residential camps for 140 adolescent girls. The camps were designed to bolster the leadership abilities of 12–17 year old girls in Myanmar, and help them avoid trafficking, dangerous labour and other forms of violence. By empowering girls, the camps help create opportunities for them to better cope with their difficulties, envision alternatives and take leadership into their own hands. Their camps brought together girls from different religious and ethnic communities throughout the country.*

## Vientiane

The Australian Embassy in Vientiane provided \$424 480 for 20 projects spread across nine provinces in Laos. Poverty is concentrated in rural and remote areas, where poor infrastructure and limited or no access to basic services and markets is a major obstacle to economic growth. The Direct Aid Program works with local communities to improve rural economic development by focusing on improving livelihoods.

DAP projects included providing clean drinking water through specialised Australian-designed clay pottery water filters, providing building materials to construct toilets in pre-schools, schools and ethnic Hmong villages, and purchasing training and emergency medical equipment for an ambulance service in Vientiane.



Source: Australian Embassy, Vientiane

*'Standing Up, Speaking Out' (SUSO) focused on men taking action to eliminate violence against women in Lao PDR. The project encouraged men (SUSO champions) to stand up against violence against women by mobilising individual and community support. Ten male volunteers from different backgrounds shared these strong messages across their networks. Two of the champions are high profile Lao celebrities who have garnered significant attention for the project, including from high level officials.*

## Direct Aid Program – North Asia

In 2014–15, the Direct Aid Program provided \$495 000 for 21 projects in North Asia through our diplomatic missions in Beijing (covering China) and Seoul (covering Mongolia).

### Beijing

The Australian Embassy in Beijing funded 12 projects across 12 provinces/autonomous regions in China totalling \$359 579. China's impressive economic growth has delivered uneven benefits and some rural areas still suffer from significant disadvantages in terms of health, education, opportunities for employment and access to basic services and infrastructure.

The Direct Aid Program funded several projects targeting women's empowerment and support for ethnic minorities groups and all projects were undertaken in the poorest parts of China. One particular project in Jianchuan County, Yunnan, funded bilingual teacher's guides, student textbooks and teacher training. The project helps children from the Bai ethnic minority to learn to read and speak both Bai and Mandarin before starting compulsory Mandarin primary school.



Source: Australian Embassy, Beijing  
A primary school class in Jianchuan learning the bilingual Bai-Mandarin curriculum funded through DAP.

### Seoul

The Australian Embassy in Seoul funded seven projects in Mongolia totalling \$135 489. Remoteness, low income and employment opportunities, coupled with a lack of industrial infrastructure and environmental degradation, are the major causes for higher rural poverty in Mongolia.

The Direct Aid Program funded several projects in remote areas of Mongolia, including a project which delivered access to clean drinking water in the Erdenemandal bagh area where most households live in communal areas. General knowledge of hygiene and health has improved for this community through the educational training programs conducted by this project.

The program also supported the set-up of the 'Uvurkhangai Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter for Women and Children'. The Shelter, located in Uvurkhangai Province in southern Mongolia, provides 24 hour emergency accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence.



Source: 'Water is Life' – End of Project Report  
The Direct Aid Program funded the 'Water is Life: improved water supply & hygienic situation of germ area households' project to build a water kiosk to supply drinking water and to distribute hand wash basins to households. Above are the hand basins being made for installation.

## International Development Fund (IDF)

**In 2014–15, our multilateral missions in UN New York, Geneva UN, Geneva WTO and Vienna UN provided \$1.88 million for 25 International Development Fund (IDF) projects. Many of these projects focused on supporting developing countries to participate in international meetings.**

### New York UN

The Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in New York provided \$588 073 for eight multilateral projects. The projects supported key issues across the UN agenda such as counter-terrorism, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, small arms and light weapons and gender issues. The projects had a strong development focus and served a range of development objectives across regions.

One IDF project in South Sudan trains men to walk with groups of women as they go to the shops or do their washing. Their experience has demonstrated that rebel groups are unlikely to attack when a man accompanies the women. While this work was originally done by expatriates, the training has allowed local men to take this role, making the program sustainable over the long term.

### Geneva UN

The Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva funded 15 multilateral projects totalling \$475 894. The projects supported key issues across the UN agenda including human rights, gender, humanitarian assistance, health, disarmament and arms control.

IDF projects promoted economic and social progress objectives through projects that worked towards disarmament and arms control, improved the quality of protection response in humanitarian action and enabled developing countries to participate in international meetings.

Three projects focused on assistance in response to humanitarian crises. One of these provided support to publish and launch the report of an independent whole-of-system review of protection in humanitarian action that will serve as a basis for developing a new Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) policy on protection by the Norwegian Refugee Council. The report provides recommendations to improve the quality of protection response in humanitarian action.

### Geneva WTO

The Australian Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva provided \$528 000 for six multilateral projects. The projects supported key issues across the World Trade Organization agenda including improving the capacity of negotiators from least-developed and developing countries to engage constructively with the multilateral trading system.

One project focused on increasing the visibility of Pacific island countries by funding the participation of their high level representatives in the Global Review of Aid for Trade 2015 in Geneva. Another project funded a regional dialogue for East African countries to explore how trade policies and rules could be used better to promote food security and enhance farm productivity, farmers' livelihoods and rural development.

### Vienna UN

The Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Vienna provided \$316 141 for seven multilateral projects. The projects supported key issues across the UN agenda on transnational crimes, drug policy and peaceful uses of atomic energy.

The IDF supported the participation of representatives from Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Palau in a Technical Cooperation workshop at the International Atomic Agency, to help them gain experience in developing project designs to use nuclear technology in support of sustainable socioeconomic development in areas of health, agriculture and environmental management. For PNG, the project designs focused on increasing access to cancer diagnosis and treatment and establishing an environmental laboratory to monitor mining waste disposal. For Fiji, the concepts included management of fruit flies and establishing a laboratory for protection of marine resources from mining. For Palau, the concepts included management of fruit flies as well as improving the quality of x-ray diagnostic imaging.

Another project supported by IDF was the Joint Global Programme's work to improve access to medicines for pain relief in the developing world, run jointly by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Union for International Cancer Control. The initiative, to be implemented in Timor-Leste, aims to reduce regulatory and technical barriers related to medical prescribing and dispensing of opioid analgesic pharmaceuticals for pain relief, for example for pain management in cases of terminal cancer.