



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



AUSTRALIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA
(REGIONAL)
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP
PLAN 2024–2028

Section 1: Introduction

Australia's partnership with Southeast Asia

Australia's future is tied to the future of Southeast Asia. We have enduring connections – through geography, trade and people – and a shared vision for a peaceful, stable and prosperous region.

Deepening Australia's engagement with Southeast Asia¹ is a priority. Building on our longstanding development partnerships, our annual \$1.3 billion official development assistance (ODA) program with the region advances our mutual interests. We are listening to the region's perspectives and will continue to build and develop our support to meet their priorities and tackle shared challenges – including climate change, inclusive and sustainable growth, gender equality, disability and social inclusion, and fostering resilient communities. By harnessing all tools of statecraft, we can play a bigger role in supporting the region's development.

Australia is committed to working with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the countries of the Mekong subregion (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) to build a region that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, where countries and peoples can cooperate, trade and thrive, and where differences and disputes are settled through dialogue, existing institutions and agreed rules and norms. Working with ASEAN Member States, and through regional initiatives, complements Australia's substantial bilateral relationships with the countries of Southeast Asia. As ASEAN's first dialogue partner, and a Comprehensive Strategic Partner, Australia sees ASEAN centrality as vital to the region. Australia hosted leaders from ASEAN and Timor-Leste in March 2024 at the ASEAN–Australia Special Summit to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN–Australia Dialogue Relations.

Purpose of the Development Partnership Plan

Australia's [International Development Policy](#) presents a long-term vision for how the development program will meet the critical needs of our partners, support sustainable development and help lift people out of poverty. Australia seeks relationships based on respect and partnerships that create economic and social value for us all. To achieve this, Australia supports our partners to:

- build effective, accountable states that drive their own development
- enhance state and community resilience to external pressures and shocks
- connect with Australia and regional architecture
- generate collective action on global challenges that impact us and our region.

The Australia – Southeast Asia Regional Development Partnership Plan 2024–2028 (DPP) translates into action the development priorities Australia shares with Southeast Asia. It complements Australia's seven bilateral DPPs with Southeast Asian countries. The DPP sets out agreed objectives, how we will work together to deliver shared outcomes, and how progress will be monitored. It also identifies where Australia can add value to Southeast Asia's regional development priorities and how Australia will work with other development actors, ensuring the Australian Government contribution to Southeast Asia's development ambitions is well coordinated.

The DPP reflects the full spectrum of Australia's development support – Australian Government regional ODA as well as significant bilateral and global ODA and non-ODA development activities. A commitment to ongoing dialogue and engagement with government and non-government actors in support of a genuine and respectful partnership underpins this DPP. A mid-cycle review of the DPP will be undertaken.

The DPP explains how the Australia – Southeast Asia Regional development partnership meets our shared ambitions in the region. It sets out what approaches we will maintain and what will adapt or significantly change.

Key features are:

- maintaining our long-term and flexible support for regional institutions, including through new phases of support for ASEAN and the Mekong subregion that tackle transboundary priorities
- harnessing our ODA and non-ODA tools to contribute to development priorities identified in *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040* (the Moore report),² such as quality infrastructure, the clean energy transition, agriculture and food security, and international education and skills
- expanding our support for women's economic empowerment to include policy reforms on the care economy and boosting capital to women-led and women-focused businesses
- scaling up our investment to address regional vulnerabilities to climate change and disasters and supporting ASEAN-led efforts on the clean energy transition, including with like-minded partners
- building broader and deeper links between Australian and Southeast Asian government institutions as part of our development efforts, and leveraging Australia's national expertise in key areas
- connecting our technical support for infrastructure reforms and project development with efforts to crowd in additional finance from private sector and international financial institutions
- consolidating our regional portfolio around a smaller number of flagship investments to improve efficiency, impact and alignment with Southeast Asia's bilateral DPP priorities.

Preparing the Development Partnership Plan

This DPP is informed by key regional strategies, including the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and ASEAN-led sectoral and thematic strategies. The DPP sets out linkages with the Moore report. It also draws on analysis and evaluation of existing programs and ongoing, iterative discussion of priorities through partnership governance arrangements.

Views were collected through targeted interviews, voluntary written submissions, reference groups and consultation forums, including regional consultations undertaken for the International Gender Equality Strategy and the International Disability Equity and Rights Strategy.

Partner government views were sought through the ASEAN Secretariat and Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) regional diplomatic network. Our ASEAN Mission consulted ASEAN Member States through the ASEAN Secretariat on several occasions. The joint objectives (Table 1) were shared and agreed early in the drafting process. Australia's Ambassador to ASEAN briefed the annual ASEAN–Australia Joint Cooperation Committee meeting and the draft DPP version was well received by ASEAN stakeholders.

The Office of Southeast Asia within DFAT consulted with more than 50 Australia-based stakeholders as part of the event 'In Dialogue on Development: Australia in Southeast Asia' in December 2023. This consultation included managing contractors, non-government organisations (NGOs), private sector representatives, philanthropic and civil society organisations (CSOs), think tanks and multilateral development organisations. The Office of Southeast Asia also commissioned independent surveys to inform the preparation of eight bilateral and regional DPPs.³ These stakeholder surveys sought the views of 50 non-government development experts in each country on five topics.

Climate change, governance and human development were viewed as top priorities for the region that aligned with Australia's comparative advantage. Stakeholders raised the importance of locally led development for sustainability and the need to consolidate our efforts to achieve greater impact. The first batch of reports found that Australia was perceived to be well placed to connect across different levels of society, fostering people-to-people, business, academic and civil society linkages between Australia and Southeast Asia, and delivering development outcomes focused on people and communities. These reports will all be published by February 2025.

Section 2: Southeast Asia development context and Australian partnership

Southeast Asia has achieved progress on several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including elimination of poverty (SDG1), promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems and preserving biodiversity (SDG15) and clean water and sanitation (SDG6).⁴ However, progress remains uneven across the region and on the current trajectory Southeast Asia will not meet any of the 17 SDGs by 2030.⁵ The region is characterised by uneven economic growth and is exposed to transboundary challenges including climate change and transnational crime.

Economic situation

Southeast Asia's economic outlook is strong, despite multifaceted global challenges and recessionary forces following the COVID-19 pandemic.⁶ Country-led efforts and forums such as the ASEAN Economic Community have strengthened regional resilience and supported recovery from the pandemic. The region's combined gross domestic product (GDP) of USD3.6 trillion is approximately twice the size of the Australian economy.⁷ Southeast Asia (as a bloc) is projected to become the world's fourth-largest economy by 2040, after the United States, China and India, with an expected compound annual growth rate of 4 per cent between 2022 and 2040.⁸

Yet, challenges to this economic growth trajectory remain. These include slowing progress on poverty and inequality reduction, large national budget deficits, elevated inflation and the impacts of global economic trends.⁹ Non-tariff barriers, government-mandated investment prohibitions and uneven economic development pose challenges to regional economic integration. Intra-ASEAN trade as a share of the bloc's overall trade in goods remains low, at 22.3 per cent in 2022.¹⁰ Meeting Southeast Asia's estimated USD3 trillion infrastructure investment gap will require average annual investment of USD210 billion to 2040.¹¹

Regional institutions

ASEAN Members States and partners in the Mekong subregion are working to promote greater political, economic and social cooperation and regional stability. Partner countries are dedicated to sustaining the momentum of regional development, including through cross-regional and cross-sectoral community building,¹² guided by key policy documents such as the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, the ASEAN Community Blueprints 2025, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. Australia looks forward to ASEAN's post-2025 strategies (to be released in 2025) that will guide priorities for the region to 2045.

Human capital and community resilience

The region has seen a steady decline in poverty – from affecting almost half Southeast Asia's population to affecting around one in eight people.¹³ However, development gains differ significantly within and between countries. Per capita incomes vary from under USD2,000 in Myanmar and Timor-Leste to more than USD84,000 in Singapore.¹⁴ Populations are vulnerable to shocks, as the COVID-19 pandemic showed.

Despite steps forward in education, the recovery of education systems from the pandemic has been slow. Variable education quality continues to constrain the region's development. Long school closures during the pandemic resulted in substantial learning loss, especially for children in low-income households. In much of the region, investment in social protection and health remains low. On average, Southeast Asian countries spent only 2.3 per cent of GDP on social welfare in 2020.¹⁵ Women, girls, people with disability, ethnic minorities, Indigenous communities, and vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected by poor access to services. More than 8 million lives are lost each year to non-communicable diseases and 40 per cent of the region's deaths are attributable to communicable diseases.¹⁶

National or subnational conflicts in some countries constrain progress on human development and drive internal and cross-border displacement. Shrinking civic space is hampering the ability of CSOs to advocate on political, economic and social issues and influence policy change across the region.

Gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI)

In Southeast Asia, women and girls, people with disability and marginalised populations often have less access to economic opportunities than do other groups, and are disproportionately in vulnerable employment. Women's formal workforce participation varies across the region but is consistently lower than that of men. Around 70 per cent of women in Southeast Asia work in the vulnerable, informal economy, without access to social protection.¹⁷ Women also receive less income and bear the brunt of unpaid care and domestic work. Women-led small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) encounter major barriers in accessing finance and investment. Gender-based violence is an acute manifestation of gender inequality. In Southeast Asia, 34 per cent of women aged 15 years and over have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.¹⁸

People with disability are subject to disproportionately high rates of poverty.¹⁹ They are more likely to be subject to violations of their rights on the basis of their disability, which intersects with other forms of discrimination such as age- and gender-based. People with disability are excluded from equal access to the paid labour workforce because of systemic barriers to employment, including the built environment, transport, communications and access to information and assistive technology.²⁰ Disability prevalence is set to rise with ageing populations in Southeast Asia; the proportion of people aged 60 or above will increase from 12.5 per cent in 2023 to 22 per cent in 2050.²¹

ASEAN Member States are committed to gender equality and inclusion and to the empowerment of women and girls. In 1988, the group adopted the Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN region. There is also increased recognition in Southeast Asia of the importance of gender equality, disability equity and social inclusion to sustainable development – reflected in ASEAN's Gender Mainstreaming Strategic Framework 2021–2025, the ASEAN regional plans of action on the elimination of violence against women and children, and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security. Most governments in the region have signed up to global commitments on ending violence against women and have domestic violence legislation in place. The ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025 and the 2023 ASEAN Declaration on Disability-Inclusive Development and Partnership for a Resilient ASEAN Community serve as key instruments in steering ASEAN's policies and programs to be inclusive for people with disability in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Climate change and disasters

Southeast Asia faces rising sea levels, heatwaves, floods, droughts and increasingly intense and unpredictable weather events and natural hazards. The impacts of the climate crisis are exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities, including poverty, conflict and displacement trends, food insecurity, water insecurity, environmental degradation, disability, and gender inequality. Climate change and disasters have the potential to affect populations at scale, reversing development gains and requiring significant recovery efforts.

Without action, the impacts of climate change and disasters could derail Southeast Asia's development trajectory with potential GDP losses as high as 30 per cent by 2100²² and the displacement of 87 million people from high-risk flood areas.²³ Measures to adapt and build resilience to climate impacts are urgently needed to defend against climate-induced loss and damage, including measures that benefit women, people with disability and marginalised populations who will bear the brunt of these impacts.

The governments of Southeast Asian countries are responding ambitiously and are committed to achieving the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement goals. Most countries have committed to either carbon neutrality or net zero emissions targets. The region requires significant investment to achieve this ambition. Current annual climate finance flows are around USD30 billion, well short of the estimated cumulative investment requirements of up to USD1.5 trillion to meet 2030 targets.²⁴ Bridging this gap is beyond

the capacity of public sources, coming at a time when many countries are facing higher debt and competing demands on public spending. Unlocking private finance will therefore be essential and require the strategic and creative use of the public finance and policy levers that are available.

Australian partnership

We are committed to being a partner of choice for Southeast Asia. We will offer genuine partnerships based on respect, listening and learning from each other. As we look to deepen and strengthen our relationships, we will offer an international development program that is based on partner priorities, is transparent in its approach, is not transactional in nature, is high quality and which prioritises local leadership, job opportunities and procurement.

Australia is best placed to add value and respond to the region's needs in the following ways:

- **Prioritising our modest resources to influence broader change.** As the third-largest ODA grants-based partner in Southeast Asia, Australia has a track record of supporting our partners to pilot policy reforms. We want to leverage much larger public and private sector resources to achieve impact at scale.
- **Deploying all tools of statecraft.** We will bring together our lines of effort across development, diplomacy, trade and security to ensure the impact we have is greater than the dollars we spend. Australian expertise and institutions are highly regarded by partners and are in demand. We will enhance our engagement with the region, expand use of our development financing tools and promote closer economic integration with Australia. Strong people-to-people ties will remain a foundation of our partnership.
- **Maintaining our reputation as a reliable and responsive partner.** We will continue to invest in long-term programs that address complex development needs. Consolidating our portfolio into fewer, larger regional investments will enable us to be flexible and responsive to partner needs and requests.
- **Exploring new partnership approaches to support the region's development agenda.** We will deepen our engagement with advanced middle-income country partners such as Malaysia and Thailand as they approach graduation from ODA-eligible status. We will explore mechanisms to partner with Southeast Asia's emerging donors to facilitate multicountry dialogue on regional development issues. And we will work with like-minded countries to amplify our collective efforts where practical opportunities arise.

A reinvigorated approach to regional and global programs

Australia is reinvigorating its approach to the Southeast Asia regional development portfolio. We want to see greater complementarity between Australian Government bilateral, regional, and global programs. Well-targeted regional or multicountry programs play a unique role in responding to issues beyond the remit of individual bilateral programs and can deliver economies of scale for our delivery partners. If poorly designed, however, they can fall short in responding to regional priorities or local context.

We will develop a systematic approach to guide decisions about regional and global programs being delivered in Southeast Asia to support coherence with bilateral priorities. We will deploy our ODA and our non-ODA support flexibly and creatively to achieve the highest quality outcome in each circumstance. New regional programs will be required to address transboundary and regionwide issues (such as transnational crime, ocean protection and climate change). New multicountry programs will align with bilateral priorities, including DPP objectives. All programs will require improved monitoring and evaluation standards to ensure transparency in ODA reporting.

Shifts in focus are outlined under our partnership objectives and in the following summary of flagship regional programs. We will adapt programs with a track record and profile in the region – such as the Mekong–Australia Partnership and Partnerships for Infrastructure. This will build on the programs' reputations and deliver greater efficiency than commissioning new investments in these sectors.

In addition to these regional programs, Australia's development assistance is provided through global and multilateral programs (\$189 million in 2023–24) in critical sectors such as health, education, and social services. Examples at the global level include the Australian NGO Cooperation Program, Australian Volunteers Program and

Australia Awards. In the Indo-Pacific, Partnerships for a Healthy Region (see Annex 1), brings Australian, regional, and global health expertise to Southeast Asia to support health systems strengthening, prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We will use our strategic partnerships with multilateral organisations across the United Nations system, thematic funds, and multilateral development banks to deliver resources and results for Southeast Asia. These partnerships help deliver our development and humanitarian assistance at a greater scale in our region and provide a mechanism to work alongside bilateral partners in regional and global forums. Co-financing with international financial institutions allows Australia to engage with sovereign governments on transformational development investments that may otherwise not be feasible due to complexity and scale.²⁵ Our multilateral partners provide a valuable platform to give voice to priorities and concerns of our region and to take forward international norms, standards and agreements on critical issues such as human rights, human trafficking and modern slavery.

Shifting focus of flagship Southeast Asia regional programs

Over the DPP period, the focus of several flagship Southeast Asia regional programs will shift. These shifts are summarised below and have been informed by the findings of reviews and evaluations of these programs.²⁶

Australia's ASEAN cooperation program

- *Current focus:* The new Aus4ASEAN Futures initiative (2024–2032) is an agile and responsive facility supporting ASEAN-led projects, including the ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement and implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. Aus4ASEAN Futures is delivering support under the three pillars of the ASEAN Community – the ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Social-Cultural Community and ASEAN Political Security Community. The Regional Trade for Development Facility (RT4D) (2022–2028) provides access to world-class technical assistance and capacity building support to ASEAN Members to realise the full benefits of our shared regional economic architecture – through the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- *Future focus:* Aus4ASEAN Futures will scale up its support to all three pillars of the ASEAN Community, delivering projects that work through ASEAN systems to support ASEAN priorities. This will build on our longstanding cooperation with the ASEAN Economic Community and will be a significant step-up in our support to the Socio-Cultural and Political Security communities.

Government-to-Government Partnerships program (SEAG2G)

- *Current focus:* Individual government-to-government engagements only in specific countries (for example, Indonesia) or sectors (for example, transnational crime).
- *Future focus:* A new government-to-government program (SEAG2G, 2024–2028) will enable Australian and Southeast Asian government agencies to build and sustain relationships and support policy and technical capability in climate and energy, education and skills, food security and agriculture, and effective public institutions.

Investing in Women

- *Current focus:* Phase 1 of the Investing in Women initiative (2016–2023) supported women's economic empowerment in Southeast Asia through increased and equitable private sector opportunities. It focused on improving workplace gender equality, increasing impact investment in women-led or -owned SMEs, and addressing gendered norms.
- *Future focus:* Phase 2 of the Investing in Women initiative (2023–2027) will explore new areas, including policy reforms that support women's equal economic participation, particularly related to paid and unpaid care work. Impact investment will be undertaken through Australian Development Investments.

Maritime security

- *Current focus:* Australia's regional maritime cooperation program (2024–2028) supports our Southeast Asian partners to address shared maritime security challenges and promote regional adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- *Future focus:* Australia's engagement on maritime issues in the region is strengthened, including through government-to-government partnerships and support for academic networks and training.

Mekong–Australia Partnership (MAP)

- *Current focus:* MAP (FY2020–21 to FY2023–24) supported an inclusive and resilient Mekong subregion, pursuing joint solutions to shared challenges. Activities in MAP Phase 1 have been delivered across five pillars, focusing on human capacity, economic resilience, environmental resilience, cyber and critical technology, and trade and investment.
- *Future focus:* MAP Phase 2 (2024–2028) is deepening Australia's engagement on shared challenges in the Mekong subregion. MAP Phase 2 will focus on transboundary and multicountry partnerships in climate change resilience and water security, economic resilience, transnational crime, GEDSI, and leadership and skills. MAP Phase 2 will work to enhance subregional cooperation on shared challenges and increase partnerships with like-minded partners.

Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I)

- *Current focus:* Phase 1 of P4I (2021–2024) has strengthened countries' options and agency to make infrastructure decisions in their sovereign interests; and supported countries to become more investment ready, attracting quality infrastructure finance.
- *Future focus:* P4I Phase 2 (2026–2030) will build on Phase 1 priority sectors – transport, energy, telecommunications and public investment management – and the design process will explore opportunities to provide support across the infrastructure lifecycle, including project preparation.

Scholarships, short courses and Fellowships

- *Current focus:* A range of bespoke scholarships, short courses and Fellowships are provided through Australia Awards, Aus4ASEAN and MAP.
- *Future focus:* A more coherent offering of scholarships and short courses will be provided across all ASEAN countries, supported by increased on-Award enrichment, alumni engagement, and co-financing partnerships.

Section 3: Joint objectives of the Australia – Southeast Asia regional development partnership

The overarching goal of the Australia – Southeast Asia regional development partnership is a region that is peaceful, stable and prosperous. We want to support a region where ASEAN and ASEAN-led institutions hold the centre and play a leading role in implementing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific. We will support transboundary and subregional development partnerships that promote the resilience of the Mekong subregion.

Our three development partnership objectives, and how we will work together to achieve each objective, are summarised below and in Table 1. These objectives reflect principles and priorities agreed to by Australia and our regional partners, including through our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with ASEAN and the ASEAN–Australia Plan of Action. A mid-cycle review of this DPP will be undertaken to review progress and make adjustments as required.

Over this DPP period, we will support implementation of a set of prioritised recommendations in the Moore report that directly contribute to the region’s economic development. This includes initiatives relating to infrastructure, clean energy, food and agriculture, and education and skills. For example, ODA will be used to fund policy and regulatory reforms; blended finance to develop early-stage and higher-risk projects; and non-ODA to crowd in Australian private sector investment. Direct support for Australian business will be funded separately.

Ways of working

We will work together to progress the objectives set out in Table 1 through:

- genuine partnerships based on respect and listening and informed by monitoring, evaluation and learning
- effective, transparent, locally led and inclusive development, with a focus on gender- and climate-responsive approaches, disability equity and social inclusion, and harnessing First Nations perspectives
- deeper government, business and civil society partnerships with Southeast Asian counterparts to mobilise Australian expertise
- ASEAN and Mekong subregional systems and regional architecture
- ODA and non-ODA resources, and greater use of blended finance.

Table 1: Australia – Southeast Asia development partnership

Goal: A peaceful, stable and prosperous Southeast Asia

Objective	Objective 1 Inclusive regional economic growth and integration	Objective 2 Enhanced regional and community resilience	Objective 3 Greater regional action on climate change and energy transition
Outcomes	<p>Outcome 1.1 Stronger policy and business enabling environment for inclusive trade and investment and economic integration</p> <p>Outcome 1.2 Increased development of and investment in quality, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure</p> <p>Outcome 1.3 Increased economic opportunity for women, people with disability and marginalised groups, including progress towards gender equality</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1 Stronger and more effective regional architecture through support of ASEAN and its initiatives, including implementation of the ASEAN–Australia Plan of Action and ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and Mekong subregional engagement</p> <p>Outcome 2.2 Deeper cooperation and partnership on transnational crime, migration, health security, marine management and civil maritime security</p> <p>Outcome 2.3 Strengthened human development and community resilience through enhanced skills</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1 Accelerate the region’s clean energy transition, including through the equitable uptake of technologies that contribute to mitigation and advance progress towards net zero emissions</p> <p>Outcome 3.2 Reduced regional vulnerability to impacts of climate change and disasters, including through investing in adaptation of key sectors such as infrastructure and sustainable water management</p>
Focus areas	<p>Objective 1 focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International trade rules, standards and norms • Public financial management • Infrastructure • Private sector development • Women’s economic empowerment and access to finance 	<p>Objective 2 focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened leadership, governance and regional architecture • Rule of law and conflict prevention • Marine management and security • Counter trafficking and safe migration • Cyber and technology • Health, including sexual and reproductive health • Education and skills • Civil society strengthening • Addressing gender-based violence 	<p>Objective 3 focus areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean energy transition • Climate adaptation and mitigation • Disaster risk reduction • Agriculture, food and water security • Climate financing

Objective 1: Inclusive regional economic growth and integration

Objective 1 contributes to the following focus areas of Australia's International Development Policy:

- build effective, accountable states that drive their own development
- connect with Australia and regional architecture.

Driving inclusive economic growth is a top priority for all Southeast Asian countries and ASEAN.

Australia has a track record of working with our regional partners to promote economic reform, reduce poverty and address inequality. The Moore report sets out a long-term blueprint to deepen economic integration between Australia and the region for mutual benefit.

Achieving this objective will require increased ambition, resourcing and engagement across our development portfolio and non-ODA tools. Advancing GEDSI across all lines of effort will be central to inclusive economic development and social cohesion. Expanding economic integration between Australia and Southeast Asia will underpin our government and industry partnerships.

Australia will contribute to a stronger economic policy and business-enabling environment, including through inclusive trade and investment and regional economic integration.

We will support ASEAN to implement or develop new economic frameworks and instruments, including the Digital Economy Framework Agreement. Shaping ASEAN-led policies, governance, systems, and standards is essential to fostering regional growth and addressing barriers to inclusive economic development. We will invest in new research and tools, such as economic research with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia as part of our cooperation with ASEAN. Through the Regional Trade for Development Facility (RT4D), Australia will support our partners to realise the full benefits of our regional economic architecture and expand cooperation on trade rules and standards harmonisation.

Through our multilateral economic cooperation investments, including partnerships with World Trade Organization facilities, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Asian Development Bank and World Bank, we will deliver capacity building and technical assistance to partners across Southeast Asia. We will support them to gain greater access to international markets and finance, and engage more fully in the multilateral trading system.

Australia will deploy a suite of tools to support the region's efforts to develop and invest in quality, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure. This will help our partners close infrastructure gaps and keep pace with economic, climate and demographic changes and digital transformation.

Through Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I), we will assist our partners to put in place the policy and regulatory frameworks needed to attract quality investment. We will support quality projects in targeted sectors and facilitate the technical capacity required to support their implementation and maintenance.

Through our growing portfolio of development finance instruments, we will help identify and develop early-stage, higher-risk infrastructure projects into viable investment opportunities. Expanding access to de-risking instruments will help secure the infrastructure investment required for the projects.

Investment deal teams²⁷ will boost our capability to coordinate the deployment of our infrastructure tools. They will help identify opportunities for the Australian Government's \$2 billion Southeast Asia Investment Financing Facility to invest in economic infrastructure in the region. We will utilise the substantial funding we provide to international financial institutions to leverage multilateral financing in the region. We will explore opportunities to expand our coordination with like-minded countries on quality infrastructure.

We will increase economic opportunity for women, people with disability and marginalised groups.

Investments centred on GEDSI will be key to sharing the benefits of prosperity. Programs such as Investing in Women place women at the forefront of economic development, supporting them to participate fully as employees and entrepreneurs by reducing or removing structural barriers, including prohibitive gender norms.

Continued engagement in Southeast Asia through Women's World Banking will drive approaches to financial inclusion. We will support efforts to scale gender-lens investing and consider options to incorporate a stronger focus on disability and social inclusion.

Objective 2: Enhanced regional and community resilience

Objective 2 contributes to the following focus areas of Australia's International Development Policy:

- connect with Australia and regional architecture
- enhance state and community resilience to external pressures and shocks
- build effective, accountable states that drive their own development.

The 2024 [ASEAN–Australia Special Summit](#) affirmed that Australia and our partners in Southeast Asia share a vision for a region that is peaceful, stable and prosperous, underpinned by ASEAN centrality. We want a region where sovereignty is respected, and where differences are managed through respectful dialogue, not the threat or use of force. We seek a region where disputes are settled peacefully in accordance with international law.

Australia will support stronger and more effective regional architecture by engaging closely with ASEAN and Mekong subregion institutions and initiatives.

Through Aus4ASEAN Futures, Australia will support ASEAN-led projects to implement the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and the ASEAN–Australia Plan of Action (2025–2029). We will continue to reinforce ASEAN's role as the region's leading convener for strategic dialogue and will support Timor-Leste's ambition to join ASEAN.

The Mekong subregion warrants a special focus owing to the shared and transboundary nature of many of its challenges. Australia will support engagement with Mekong subregion architecture such as the Mekong River Commission. Through the Mekong–Australia Partnership, we will strengthen subregional leadership and institutions in areas of climate change and environmental resilience, economic resilience and transnational crime.

Australia will deepen cooperation and partnerships on regional security and stability, including in the areas of transnational crime, cyber security, safe migration, health security and maritime security.

We will continue our longstanding gender-responsive ASEAN partnerships and involvement with regional mechanisms such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. This will include strengthening justice systems, countering human trafficking and promoting safe and fair labour migration. We will work with ASEAN partners on the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security. Through the Mekong–Australia Partnership we will promote cross-border cooperation between Mekong subregion countries to combat transnational crime, supporting national efforts to tackle serious threats such as drug trafficking, cybercrime, child sexual exploitation and financial crimes.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerability of health systems and the implications of this vulnerability for health security across the region. We will strengthen regional health architecture so Southeast Asia is better prepared for future shocks, including by working through the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases. Through Partnerships for a Healthy Region, we will support efforts to prevent and manage the spread of diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as non-communicable diseases and mental illness. We will leverage Australia's domestic expertise and the presence of international health organisations in the region.

UNCLOS provides the comprehensive legal framework for all activities in the oceans and seas and provides the foundation for peace, security, and stability in the maritime domain. Australia's regional maritime programs

promote adherence to UNCLOS by supporting our partners in Southeast Asia to address shared civil maritime security challenges. Australia's regional maritime cooperation program in Southeast Asia will build the capacity of partners to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, build maritime domain awareness and sustainably manage marine resources and ocean protection initiatives. Our practical support will contribute to ASEAN's maritime focus and engagement on maritime policy in the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum.

Australia will contribute to strengthened human development and community resilience through enhancing education and skills and advancing gender equality and disability equity.

Australia's education sector is a national asset in our engagement with Southeast Asia. Our world-class education institutions are well placed to meet the region's demand for tertiary education to upskill its workforce. We will support efforts to expand Australian transnational education in the region and mutual recognition of qualifications to create new education opportunities. Our investments in basic and secondary education will be delivered bilaterally and through our support to multilateral organisations, such as the Global Partnership for Education.

We will enhance our approach to our scholarships and Fellowships programs across all countries. We will prioritise support for building influential networks of diverse future leaders across ASEAN Member States, Timor-Leste and in the Mekong subregion. The delivery of demand-driven short courses, leadership training and professional exchanges will build institutional and human capacity, while fostering connections with Australia and our values. We will ensure course content and participant selection is gender responsive and disability equitable, and we will better harness the expertise and connections with our alumni. New partnerships with universities and industry will increase the pool of scholarships and work-integrated learning opportunities. Non-ODA scholarships will complement ODA scholarship opportunities.

Increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights is fundamental to advancing gender equality in Southeast Asia. To complement local and country-specific partnerships in this area, we will partner with international NGOs and UN agencies and draw on Australian expertise to boost access to services and advance women's rights. We will engage Southeast Asia partners to better understand what works to prevent and end gender-based violence through a new regional platform. We will work with partners to make schools safer for girls and address harmful gender norms.

Support to civil society

Civil society engagement is a priority for our partnerships in Southeast Asia, and is an integral part of how Australia implements its development program. Our bilateral programs across Southeast Asia will continue to support civil society and CSOs to mobilise around issues that align with their mandates, constituencies and values. Through programs including the Civil Society Partnerships Fund,²⁸ we will also seek to strengthen the enabling environment, respecting and promoting civic space, recognising the distinct nature and value of civil society in each country. Where possible, we will support the inclusion of women-led organisations and organisations of persons with disability in regional forums, recognising that development outcomes improve when diverse perspectives are considered.

Objective 3: Greater regional action on climate change and energy transition

Objective 3 contributes to the following focus areas of Australia's International Development Policy:

- generate collective action on global challenges that impact us and our region
- enhance state and community resilience to external pressures and shocks
- connect with Australia and regional architecture.

Addressing climate change and the clean energy transition is a key component of Australia's diplomatic, economic and development relationships in Southeast Asia. We will do more to help partners achieve their commitments

under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement and accelerate global ambition to address the climate crisis.

Australia is well placed to work with the region on the clean energy transition and respond to demand for the required data, expertise and technologies. We will sharpen the focus on climate change and disaster risk reduction across our Southeast Asia regional programs.

Australia will help accelerate the region's clean energy transition, including through the equitable uptake of technologies that contribute to mitigation and advance progress towards net zero emissions.

The energy sector lies at the heart of climate change mitigation efforts, representing 76 per cent of all global emissions.²⁹ We recognise the need to scale up the uptake and improve the affordability of renewable energy sources in Southeast Asia while ensuring energy security, reliability and access. As the Moore report highlights, the clean energy transition is both the most significant challenge and an opportunity for Southeast Asia and Australia.

As Australia's own transition to renewable energy resonates with partner countries, we expect increased interest from partners in working with Australia on energy transition engagements. To help meet demand for Australian energy expertise, we will support Australia's climate and energy agencies to build and sustain relationships with Southeast Asian counterparts. Beyond government, we will draw on the broader ecosystem of Australian energy transition expertise from the academic, research and private sectors.

We will continue supporting implementation of the *ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality* and *ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016–2025*. Regional priorities include the ASEAN Power Grid, renewable energy development, and regional energy policy and planning, as well as the work of the ASEAN Centre for Energy and establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.

Australia will continue to support the reduction of the region's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and disaster by investing in adaptation in priority sectors, such as resilient infrastructure, water and food security.

Adaptation, preparedness and resilience building will require an increased focus across our portfolio. We will continue our longstanding support to improve transboundary water cooperation, food security and environmental management in the Mekong subregion. We will support community-based adaptation and preparedness models. We will align regional programs to support partners' Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

Finding local solutions and listening to women, people with disability, Indigenous communities, and other marginalised groups will be critical to mitigate disaster risk and to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change and disaster. These approaches will also support measures to avert, minimise and respond to loss and damage. We are committed to supporting our partners to protect biodiversity through better management of natural resources and increased resilience to environmental threats.

Our growing portfolio of development finance instruments will help catalyse private sector investment in clean energy, climate and disaster resilient infrastructure and climate adaptation. For example, through Australian Development Investments, we will support SMEs to become investment ready and attract finance, recognising the key role they play in diversifying supply chains that are necessary to support the net zero transition.

Our joint ownership of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) will support the de-risking of renewable energy projects, from small-scale solar to utility-scale wind and hydropower projects, catalysing private sector investment while ensuring projects comply with relevant safeguards. We will leverage the climate finance capabilities of international financial institutions and like-minded donors to extend our impact.

Section 4: Delivering our partnership

Locally led development

Our assistance will support the local leadership of regional organisations such as ASEAN, Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Mekong River Commission. We will fund regional architecture directly and use regional governance arrangements for key decisions, ensuring local priorities and needs are articulated and that our programs respond to these. ASEAN-led assistance, delivered through ASEAN mechanisms, will continue to be an important component of our regional support. Australia’s flexible and responsive approach to supporting ASEAN-led priorities is highly valued.

We will embed locally led approaches in all our development programs and partnerships. We will support local leadership, solutions and accountability. Practical examples include:

- developing institutional linkages between Australian and Southeast Asian institutions that promote two-way learning, so that all partners can learn from each other’s expertise and experience
- increasing participation by local private sector actors in our programs; for example, working directly with local venture capital partners and using local supply chains to multiply our impact
- providing multiyear funding and capacity development for local CSOs
- investing in local and emerging leaders, including through scholarships, Fellowships, professional exchanges and ongoing alumni engagement
- establishing a community of practice for locally engaged staff managing Australia’s development programs across Southeast Asia to lead and share their expertise on specific issues
- harnessing government, non-government, academic and local partners’ expertise to deepen knowledge sharing between Australian and regional organisations.

Local actors are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities, so locally led approaches will look different in each country context in Southeast Asia.

Consultation

Australia consults with ASEAN and partner governments on regional development assistance through Senior Officials’ Meetings, and ministerial and leader-level meetings. We consult on specific programming issues through direct bilateral engagements, program governance boards, Steering Committee Meetings, Technical Committee Meetings, Implementing Partners Forums and Development Partners Roundtables. We deliver part of our development cooperation with ASEAN through ASEAN-led mechanisms.

We work closely with Mekong subregional bodies such as the Mekong River Commission and regional donor groupings. Australia continues to collaborate closely with other partners, including multilateral donors, to effectively support Mekong countries.

Through our Southeast Asian posts, Australia consults and works closely with the private sector, including women’s business coalitions through the Investing in Women program. We will continue to work closely with CSOs, including women-led organisations and organisations of persons with disability, and with multilateral partners through regular dialogue and regional forums. We will ensure that DPP objectives are central to those engagements.

Evaluation and learning

Effective development in Southeast Asia relies on a tailored approach that responds to the different development contexts across the region. We will strengthen the evidence base underpinning our regional programming and enhance our evaluation and learning.

Southeast Asia regional investments and programs will engage and seek to explore a variety of evaluation approaches (thematic, program and impact), utilising independent and internal perspectives. Mid-cycle and end-of-program evaluations will be conducted based on investment and program needs. Evaluations will be aligned to DFAT's Design and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Standards. Evaluation findings and recommendations will direct and drive institutional, regional and bilateral cross-learning and support strategic decision-making throughout each phase of the DPP's delivery.

We will step up efforts to support more regional knowledge exchanges and learning events to promote discourse on best practice. We will do so by commissioning new research, increasing stakeholder consultations, drawing on Southeast Asia regional investment reviews and evaluations, and other learning activities.

Table 2 highlights planned Southeast Asia regional investment, sectoral and strategic evaluations. All regional programs will undertake annual consultation and learning events with partners.

Table 2: Consultation, evaluation and learning plan

Objective	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27
Objective 1 Inclusive regional economic growth and integration	Investing in Women learning events with partners	Mid-cycle evaluation of Investing in Women Mid-cycle evaluation of the Regional Trade for Development Initiative Investing in Women learning events with partners	Investing in Women learning events with partners
Objective 2 Enhanced regional and community resilience	Evaluation of the Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development (TRIANGLE) in ASEAN program ASEAN–Australia Joint Planning and Review Committee	Evaluation of the ASEAN–Australia Political Security Partnership Evaluation of the Australia–Malaysia Reform Partnership ASEAN–Australia Joint Planning and Review Committee	Mid-cycle evaluation of the Southeast Asia and Australia Government-to-Government Partnerships Program Mid-cycle evaluation of the Aus4ASEAN Futures initiative ^a
Objective 3 Greater regional action on climate change and energy transition	Mid-cycle review of the Strengthening Climate Resilience in Lower Mekong Program	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
Cross-program	Southeast Asia Development Dialogue	Southeast Asia Development Dialogue Mid-cycle evaluation of Investing in Women	Southeast Asia Development Dialogue Bilateral learning events on climate and gender in regional programs Mid-cycle review of DPP

^a The Aus4ASEAN Futures initiative is overseen by the Joint Planning and Review Committee, which meets on an annual basis and will serve as an ongoing mechanism for consultation and learning.

Performance and results

The Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) at Table 3 provides a selection of indicators and expected results for the first three years of the DPP. The PAF will be updated periodically including at the mid-cycle review point at which time indicators and results for the second half of the DPP will be identified.

Table 3: Performance Assessment Framework

Objective 1: Inclusive regional economic growth and integration

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 1.1 Stronger policy and business-enabling environment	1.1.1 Regional policy and technical advice strengthens business-enabling environment and economic reform	<p>The ASEAN–Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative contributes to the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement negotiations and encourages reforms to accelerate e-commerce adoption</p> <p>Partnership continued and a new grant program for 5 years agreed with the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, producing evidence-based research to inform policy debate and reform</p> <p>Framework to implement Unique Business Identification Numbers in ASEAN developed to facilitate cross-border digital trade</p>	<p>Development of a Comprehensive Communication Strategy Framework for Inclusive Business ensuring social inclusion and a gender-sensitive approach</p> <p>3 research and capacity development activities delivered, informing policy debate and formulation to facilitate inclusive regional growth</p> <p>Implementation of Unique Business Identification Numbers in ASEAN enables increased cross-border digital trade</p>	<p>ASEAN Plan of Action on Science, Technology and Innovation developed to foster a competitive inclusive regional enabling environment</p> <p>Additional 3 research and capacity development activities delivered, informing policy debate and formulation to facilitate inclusive regional growth</p> <p>Implementation of Unique Business Identification Numbers in ASEAN enables increased cross-border digital trade</p>	<p>SDG8: Decent work and economic growth</p> <p>SDG17: Partnerships for the goals</p>

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 1.1	1.1.2 Increased capacity of Southeast Asian partner countries to participate effectively in the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) ^a	<p>1,400 people trained to facilitate AANZFTA and RCEP negotiation and implementation</p> <p>Partnerships established with 21 counterpart organisations and targeted areas for support to AANZFTA implementation agreed</p> <p>70% of targeted areas of AANZFTA implementation being advanced through technical assistance</p>	<p>1,400 people trained to facilitate AANZFTA and RCEP negotiation and implementation</p> <p>Partnerships established with 21 counterpart organisations and targeted areas for support to AANZFTA implementation agreed</p> <p>70% of targeted areas of AANZFTA implementation being advanced through technical assistance</p>	<p>Additional 1,400 people trained facilitate AANZFTA and RCEP negotiation and implementation</p> <p>Additional 2 partnerships established with counterpart organisations</p> <p>90% of targeted areas of AANZFTA implementation being advanced through technical assistance</p>	SDG17
Outcome 1.1	1.1.3 Number of infrastructure projects supported that meet G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investments or similar internationally agreed standards (Tier 2)	7 projects supported, including scoping pumped hydro storage for the Sarawak Provincial Government ^b	Additional 2 projects supported that meet G20 or similar internationally agreed standards	Additional 2 projects supported that meet G20 or similar internationally agreed standards	SDG9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure
Outcome 1.2 Increased development of and investment in quality, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure	1.2.1 Improved policies and regulations in the infrastructure sector (Tier 2) ^c	<p>Additional 2 long-term partnerships established, supporting decision-making and quality infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation between the Bureau of Meteorology and regional counterparts on energy system 	<p>Additional 2 long-term partnerships established, supporting decision-making and quality infrastructure</p> <p>5 additional policy or regulatory reforms</p>	<p>Partnerships contribute to specific infrastructure policy and regulation reforms</p> <p>5 additional policy or regulatory reforms</p>	SDG9

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
		<p>planning and management using meteorological data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation between the Cambodian Ministry of Public Works and Transport and the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads <p>5 policy or regulatory reforms including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> implementation of a national multimodal transport strategy developed with support under the Laos–Australia Connectivity Partnership regulatory reforms progressed to unlock investment in maritime green bunkering infrastructure with the Malaysian Ministry of Transport 			

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philippines Public–Private Partnership Center and Government Procurement Policy Board operationalise recent legislative reforms aimed at improving infrastructure procurement and financing options 			
Outcome 1.2	1.2.2 Number of women entrepreneurs provided with financial and/or business development services (Tier 2)	22 women entrepreneurs supported	Additional 32 women entrepreneurs supported	Additional 26 women entrepreneurs supported ^d	SDG5: Gender equality
Outcome 1.3 Increased economic opportunity for women and marginalised groups	1.3.1 ODA funding channelled to Women’s Equality Organisations and Institutions (Tier 2)	\$2.2 million	\$2.3 million	\$1.1 million	SDG5
Outcome 1.3	1.3.2 Additional private funds leveraged to support sustainable development (Tier 2)	\$12 million of capital available for SMEs that benefit women, leveraged at 2 : 1 ratio with program investment	\$16 million of capital available for SMEs that benefit women, leveraged at 2 : 1 ratio with program investment	\$14 million of capital available for SMEs that benefit women, leveraged at 2 : 1 ratio with program investment	SDG5, SDG8

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 1.3	1.3.3 Number of private sector organisations supported to strengthen accountability and or inclusion	<p>28 new private sector organisations with a combined total of 200,000 employees adopt organisational policies and practices to address workplace gender equality</p> <p>81 renewing^e private sector organisations with a combined total of 480,000 employees adopt organisational policies and practices to address workplace gender equality</p>	<p>30 additional new private sector organisations with a combined total of 220,000 employees adopt organisational policies and practices to address workplace gender equality</p> <p>87 renewing private sector organisations with a combined total of 520,000 employees adopt organisational policies and practices to address workplace gender equality</p>	<p>32 additional new private sector organisations with a combined total of 235,000 employees adopt organisational policies and practices to address workplace gender equality</p> <p>94 renewing private sector organisations with a combined total of 559,000 employees adopt organisational policies and practices to address workplace gender equality</p>	SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

- a Funded by Australia and New Zealand, the Regional Trade for Development Facility (RT4D) is the umbrella program for the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement Implementation Support Programme and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Implementation Support Programme. RT4D provides ASEAN economies with technical expertise and support for economic cooperation activities, providing monitoring, evaluation and learning support.
- b This target combines results from the Partnership for Infrastructure program and the Private Infrastructure Development Group. To respect commercial sensitivity, specific project information is not provided.
- c The Partnership for Infrastructure program will be redesigned in 2024–25; hence, specific information on out-year partnerships and targeted policy or regulatory reforms is not available.
- d The reduced outcome targets for indicators 5, 6 and 7 in FY2027 reflect the programming trend as Investing in Women approaches its final year of implementation.
- e Renewing organisations remain in the program beyond the first year.

Objective 2: Enhanced regional and community resilience

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 2.1 Strong and effective regional architectures	2.1.1 Institutions provided with technical assistance to achieve significant policy change	<p>Mekong River Commission (MRC) advises Member Countries on integrated water and hydro projects of basin-wide significance^f</p> <p>MRC implements water-related cooperation mechanisms and relevant partnerships as set out in the Basin Development Strategy 2021–2030</p> <p>MRC makes significant progress in at least 3 of 5 strategic priorities (environment, social, economic, climate change, cooperation) of the Basin Development Strategy</p>	<p>MRC sets new Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 with Member Countries</p> <p>MRC implements water-related cooperation mechanisms and relevant partnerships as set in the Basin Development Strategy</p> <p>MRC makes significant progress in at least 4 of 5 strategic priorities</p>	<p>MRC develops and/or implements at least 2 regional policies or initiatives addressing transboundary water governance challenges</p> <p>MRC implements water-related cooperation mechanisms and relevant partnerships as set in the Basin Development Strategy</p> <p>MRC makes significant progress in all strategic priorities</p>	<p>SDG6: Clean water and sanitation</p> <p>SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions</p> <p>SDG17: Partnerships for the goals</p>
Outcome 2.2 Deeper cooperation and partnership on transnational crime, migration, and marine management and civil maritime security.	2.2.1 Number of people trained to develop maritime skills, including marine science, maritime domain awareness and enforcement, leadership and operational development, and law of the sea	600 people trained	Additional 600 people trained	Additional 600 people trained	SDG14: Life below water

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 2.2	2.2.2 Improved marine management and conservation capacity	<p>Expanded coral reef monitoring and mapping capability, improving the management and conservation of coral reefs in national maritime jurisdictions</p> <p>Hydrographic marine spatial mapping, assisting countries to improve certainty and visibility of the geography of coastlines, seabeds, and features</p>	<p>Continuation and consolidation of coral reef monitoring and mapping activities</p> <p>Continuation and consolidation of hydrographic marine spatial mapping</p>	<p>Continuation and consolidation of coral reef monitoring and mapping activities</p> <p>Continuation and consolidation of hydrographic marine spatial mapping</p>	SDG14
Outcome 2.2	2.2.3 Number of people trained to address transnational crime and regional people trafficking/migration issues	<p>3,000 officials trained in labour migration issues^g</p> <p>200 people trained to address transnational crime in the Mekong subregion^h</p>	No target available, as this will be contingent on future programming	No target available, as this will be contingent on future programming	SDG16

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 2.2	2.2.4 Improved responses to transnational crime and people trafficking	<p>20,000 potential migrants, migrant workers and members of their families provided with Migrant Resource Centre support services¹</p> <p>Thailand’s Counter Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence established, and a curriculum developed</p> <p>3 organisations of persons with disability in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand are supported to advocate for disability-inclusive counter-trafficking responses</p> <p>New guideline on addressing transnational child and forced marriage in the region is developed and adopted by ASEAN</p>	<p>Thailand’s Counter Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence curriculum rollout across Thailand</p> <p>Organisations of persons with disability in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand contribute to disability-inclusive counter-trafficking responses</p>	<p>Thailand’s Counter Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence contributes to counter-trafficking results</p> <p>Disabled persons organisations in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand contribute to disability-inclusive counter-trafficking improvements</p>	SDG16
Outcome 2.3 Strengthened human development and enhanced skills	2.3.1 ASEAN region has improved ability to anticipate, prevent, detect, and control communicable disease threats, with Australian support	Preparatory support provided to the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases	Program of additional support agreed and activity implementation underway	ASEAN public health coordination and collaboration improved in target areas	SDG3: Good health and well-being

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 2.3	2.3.2 Support for improved policy and regulatory reforms to meet demand for tertiary education and upskill the workforce for a modern economy	One government-to-government education and/or skills partnership established with a Southeast Asian government counterpart institution	One additional partnership established. Capacity development activities working towards specific, mutually agreed policy and regulatory reform	One additional partnership established. Partnerships contribute to policy and regulatory reform	SDG4: Quality education
Outcome 2.3	2.3.3 Number of Southeast Asian scholars on short-term and long-term courses studying in Australia ⁱ	590 Southeast Asian scholars studying in Australia ^k	Establish ongoing co-financing of scholarships initiatives with Australian universities	Implementation of co-financing of scholarships initiatives with Australian universities	SDG4
Outcome 2.3	2.3.4 Regional coordination and collaboration to address gender-based violence	Establish the Southeast Asia Gender-based Violence (GBV) Prevention Platform	4 partnerships built to prevent GBV across the region and 5 GBV prevention tools and research products produced and disseminated	Additional 4 partnerships to prevent GBV across the region and additional 5 GBV prevention tools and research products produced and disseminated	SDG3, SDG5: Gender equality

- f The Mekong–Australia Partnership Phase 2 is being redesigned. Specific information on Mekong River Commission targets will be included in future DPP Performance Assessment Frameworks.
- g A further phase of the Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development (TRIANGLE) in ASEAN has not been agreed. Out-year training measures will be determined if the program continues into a new phase, as part of the design process.
- h The Mekong–Australia Partnership on Transnational Crime program is being redesigned. Out-year training measures and additional measures for the next phase of the program will be included in future DPP Performance Assessment Frameworks.
- i Out-year support services measures are contingent on a new phase of the program.
- j This indicator includes Australia Awards, Aus4ASEAN, Mekong–Australia Partnership and non-ODA scholarships.
- k Results for 2025–26 and 2026–27 will be identified in a future Performance Assessment Framework update, as several contributing initiatives are being redesigned.

Objective 3: Greater regional action on climate change

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Outcome 3.1 Supporting the clean energy transition and uptake of technologies	3.1.1 Support lower-emissions development pathways and/or mitigation activities via policy, technical advice and/or capacity building	<p>The ASEAN Strategy for Carbon Neutrality informs the post-2025 agenda and key sectoral body workplans to enhance regional climate action, green energy transition and policy dialogue</p> <p>The ASEAN Centre for Energy develops an ASEAN long-term renewable energy roadmap, with support from Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)</p> <p>A coordinated approach to implement the Climate and Clean Energy Window under the Southeast Asia and Australia Government-to-Government Partnerships Program is designed and agreed with Australian agencies</p> <p>A needs assessment and operational framework supports establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC)</p>	<p>Implementation of new programs, activities and technical support lead to early signs of enhanced regional cooperation in targeted areas of climate action and green energy transition</p> <p>ASEAN members implement the long-term renewable energy roadmap</p> <p>3 Australian agencies are engaged in climate and energy transition partnerships with Southeast Asian government counterparts. Capacity development activities are working towards specific, mutually agreed policy and regulatory reform</p> <p>ACCC systems, processes and resources are operationalised, and a program of targeted support activities agreed and commenced</p>	<p>Enhanced regional cooperation on targeted areas of climate action and green energy transition</p> <p>Improved effectiveness of the ASEAN Centre for Energy to promote clean energy transition policy</p> <p>Partnerships contribute to change policy and regulatory reform</p> <p>ACCC improves access to quality and timely climate change data and research to support ASEAN climate change policy and regulatory reform in targeted areas</p> <p>Increased hydrogen and ammonia development</p>	SDG13: Climate action SDG15: Life on land

Outcome	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
		Completion of the Lao National Hydrogen and Ammonia Analysis	Lao National Hydrogen and Ammonia Roadmap formulated and agreed		
Outcome 3.2 Reduced regional vulnerability to impacts of climate change	3.2.1 Support to improve Southeast Asia’s capacity in food and water security and climate resilient agriculture practices via policy, technical advice and/or capacity building (Tier 2)	<p>Water security and climate resilience assistance to the Mekong subregion benefits more than 10,000 people</p> <p>One government-to-government climate resilient agriculture/food security partnership established with Southeast Asian counterpart institution</p> <p>Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans implemented in 20 Mekong communities</p> <p>Climate resilient practices supported in 30 communities in the Mekong subregion</p> <p>4 Mekong countries adopt new policies, practices or tools in water management and accounting</p>	<p>Water security and climate resilience assistance to the Mekong subregion benefits an additional 5,000 people</p> <p>One additional partnership established. Capacity development activities working towards specific, mutually agreed policy and regulatory reform</p> <p>Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans implemented in 10 additional Mekong communities</p> <p>Climate resilient practices supported for 20 additional communities in the Mekong subregion</p> <p>Strengthened water management capacities through bespoke and demand-driven technical support</p>	<p>Water security and climate resilience assistance to the Mekong subregion benefits an additional 5,000 people</p> <p>One additional partnership established. Partnerships contribute to policy and regulatory reform</p> <p>Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans implemented in 10 additional Mekong communities</p> <p>Climate resilient practices supported for 20 additional communities in the Mekong subregion</p> <p>Strengthened water management capacities through bespoke and demand-driven technical support</p>	SDG2: Zero hunger, SDG13, SDG14: Life below water

Cross-program

Theme	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Gender equality	Percentage of development investments that address gender equality effectively (Tier 3)	70%	80%	80%	SDG5: Gender equality
Gender equality	Percentage of new investments over \$3 million with a gender equality objective (Tier 3)	100%	100%	100%	SDG5
Disability equity	Percentage of investments that effectively address disability equity in implementation	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	SDG10: Reduced inequalities
Climate change	New regional investments valued at more than \$3 million with a climate change objective (Tier 3)	50%	65%	70%	SDG13: Climate action
Localisation	Percentage of Southeast Asian regional investment designs and evaluations that include local participation	80%	80%	80%	SDG17: Partnerships for the goals
Localisation	Number and value of local contracts and grants (supporting local supply chains) (Tier 3)	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	SDG17

Theme	Indicator	Expected results 2024–25	Expected results 2025–26	Expected results 2026–27	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Localisation	Number of local personnel, sub-contractors and staff engaged on investments (Tier 3)	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	Results collected centrally	SDG17
Locally led development	Number of investments demonstrating good practice in strengthening locally led development	2 investments	2 investments	2 investments	SDG17

Annex 1: Supporting investments/activities in Southeast Asia

Australian Government supporting investments/activities for Objective 1 – inclusive regional economic growth and integration (regional and global Official Development Assistance (ODA) and significant non-ODA development investments/activities)

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Australia for ASEAN (Aus4ASEAN) Futures	2020–2032	ASEAN Member States; Timor-Leste; ASEAN Secretariat
Regional Trade for Development (RT4D)	2022–2028	ASEAN Member States; ASEAN Secretariat
Support to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)	2022–2028	ASEAN Member States
Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) Phase 1	2020–2025	ASEAN; Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
P4I Phase 2	2025–2034	ASEAN; Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Investment deal teams	2024–2028	ASEAN; Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Australian Development Investments (ADI)	2023–2033	Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Cable Connectivity and Resilience Centre	2024–2027	Indo-Pacific countries
Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG)	2022–2025	Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Philippines; Vietnam
Investing in Women (IW)	2023–2027	Indonesia; Philippines; Vietnam; with limited activities in Myanmar
Women's World Banking	2016–2024	Cambodia; Indonesia; Philippines; Vietnam

Australian Government supporting investments/activities for Objective 2 – enhanced regional and community resilience (regional and global Official Development Assistance (ODA) and significant non-ODA development investments/activities)

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Australia for ASEAN (Aus4ASEAN) Futures	2020–2032	ASEAN Member States; Timor-Leste; ASEAN Secretariat
ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking program	2018–2028	ASEAN Member States
Tripartite Action to Enhance the Contribution of Labour Migration to Growth and Development (TRIANGLE) in ASEAN	2015–2025	Cambodia; Laos; Myanmar; Thailand; International Labour Organization
ASEAN–Australia Political Security Partnership	2019–2024	ASEAN Member States
Support for Timor-Leste’s accession to ASEAN and the World Trade Organization	2022–2026	Timor-Leste; ASEAN Member States
Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program	2016–2025	ASEAN; universities; private sector
Southeast Asia and the Pacific Cyber Program	2024–2028	ASEAN; universities; private sector
Mekong–Australia Partnership Phase 2	2024–2029	Mekong River Commission (MRC); Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR); other partners
Marine Resources Initiative and other regional civil maritime security programs	2024–2028	Australian Border Force; Australian Institute of Marine Science; Geoscience Australia; Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water; Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry; Department of Defence; ACIAR; Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA); Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO); and other Australian Government agencies
Improving marine environmental governance in Southeast Asia	2024–2026	Indonesia; Philippines; University of Technology Sydney; Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; ACIAR
Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Promoting Sustainable Fisheries in Southeast Asia Program	2022–2026	Regional Plan of Action to Promote Responsible Fishing Practices including to Combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Practices in the Region (RPOA-IUU); RPOA-IUU Secretariat; ASEAN; Nha Trang University; AFMA; CSIRO
Support for the ASEAN Centre for Public Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED)	2020–2032	ASEAN Member States

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Partnerships for a Healthy Region	2023–2028	Government partners across all Southeast Asian countries; NGOs; universities and research institutions
Core contribution to the World Health Organization	2022–2027	World Health Organization
Core contribution to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	2022–2026	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Core contribution to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria	2023–2025	Global Fund
Core contribution to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	2022–2026	UNAIDS
Core contribution to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative	2021–2025	Global Polio Eradication Initiative
Core contribution to the Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	2020–2030	Gavi
Core contribution to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) Pandemic Fund	2022–2026	COVAX
Southeast Asia and Australia Government-to-Government Partnerships program (SEAG2G)	2023–2028	ASEAN; Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Australia for ASEAN scholarships (current phase)	2022–2025	ASEAN Member States; Timor-Leste
Aus4ASEAN Digital Transformation and Future Skills initiative	2022–2025	ASEAN Member States
Meryl Williams Fellowship – ASEAN cohort	2024–2025	ASEAN Member States; ACIAR; DFAT
Global Partnership for Education	2021–2025	Global Partnership for Education
Southeast Asia Gender-based Violence Prevention Platform	2024–2029	Platform to commence mid-2024
Amplify-Invest-Reach (A-I-R) Partnership	2022–2026	Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights Asia & Pacific; Women’s Fund Asia
Women Peace and Security	2022–2027	UN Women; Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies
Empowering Girls and Women through Social Protection in Southeast Asia	2023–2026	United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
Empowered and Equal Futures for Girls through Education in Southeast Asia	2023–2027	UNICEF
Indo-Pacific Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights COVID-19 Surge Response (SRHR C-Surge)	2021–2024	UNICEF; UNFPA; Marie Stopes; International Planned Parenthood Foundation

Australian Government supporting investments/activities for Objective 3 – greater regional action on climate change and energy transition (regional and global Official Development Assistance (ODA) and significant non-ODA development investments/activities)

Name of investment/activity	Duration	Key partners
Aus4ASEAN Futures	2020–2032	ASEAN Member States; Timor-Leste; ASEAN Secretariat
Australian Humanitarian Partnership Phase II	2022–2027	CARE; Caritas; Oxfam; Plan International; Save the Children; World Vision
Climate Resilient Communities	2024–2029	To be determined. Support unit to be delivered by a contractor, and co-funded programs to be delivered by a range of development partners (as determined by Posts)
Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) Phase 2	2025–2034	ASEAN; Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Southeast Asia and Australia Government-to-Government Partnerships (SEAG2G)	2023–2028	ASEAN; Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Mekong–Australia Partnership Phase 2	2024–2028	Mekong River Commission (MRC); Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR); other partners
Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG)	2022–2025	Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Philippines; Vietnam
Australian Development Investments (ADI)	2023–2033	Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Investment deal teams	2024–2028	ASEAN; Cambodia; Indonesia; Laos; Malaysia; Philippines; Thailand; Timor-Leste; Vietnam
Climate Resilient by Nature	2021–2025	WWF-Australia; WWF-Cambodia; WWF-Laos; WWF-Vietnam
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Small Grants Programme	2021–2026	UNDP
Water for Women Fund	2017–2025	Mekong subregion
SciTech4Climate	2021–2024	CSIRO; Australian National University

Endnotes

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Cover photo credits

Top row (from left to right):

- Khamvane Silanphou is a young researcher at the Horticulture Research Center in Laos. She works closely with Madaline Healey in the quarantine lab.
Credit: ACIAR
- Senior officials from Austroads and the Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) team inspect road upgrade works on National Road 8 in Cambodia with Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) engineers in October 2022. The Austroads delegation, led by Chief Executive Dr Geoff Allan, travelled to Phnom Penh for a 3-day visit to undertake preliminary work with MPWT to update Cambodia's road design standards.
Credit: Partnerships for Infrastructure

Bottom row (from left to right):

- Cambodian police officer reviews the Victim Sensitive Courts Handbook at a workshop in September 2022 to strengthen collection of trafficking data, led by Cambodia's National Committee for Counter Trafficking and supported by the ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking Program.
Credit: ASEAN Mission
- Student with disability from West Nusa Tenggara is escorted to class.
Credit: Jakarta Post and the INOVASI program
- Investing in Women partner investee, Livegreen, in action.
Credit: Flordeliz Ranola