



# Australia's International Development Policy

FOR A PEACEFUL, STABLE  
AND PROSPEROUS INDO-PACIFIC



## Objective

Our region is under pressure. We face the most challenging strategic circumstances in the post-war period. Climate change, global economic uncertainty, demographic and technological shifts are testing us all.

As one of our tools of statecraft, an effective development program is key to building regional resilience. It is in Australia's national interest to play our part through challenging times.

The objective of Australia's development program is to advance an Indo-Pacific that is peaceful, stable, and prosperous. A region that is predictable — where differences are resolved by international law and norms, and where we can cooperate, trade, and thrive. To achieve this requires sustainable development and lifting people out of poverty.

### APPROACH

This policy presents a long-term vision for how our development program will meet the critical needs of our partners, while also supporting Australia's national interests and the interests we share with our region.

We seek relationships based on respect and partnerships that create economic and social value for us all. To achieve this, we support 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 Indo-Pacific — especially the Pacific, Southeast Asia and South Asia — will remain the focus of Australia's development program, though we have interests beyond it. It is the region we know best, where we can make the most difference, and where our interests are most directly affected.

### IMPLEMENTATION

Our approach to program planning and delivery will be underpinned by principles of quality, accountability, and responding to partner priorities.

We will begin now, but many of these changes will take time. We will:

- **work** with our partners to develop country and regional plans that translate our shared priorities into action.
- **consult** closely and consider diverse perspectives to ensure we are focusing on where we can add most value and achieve most impact.

Our performance will be measured by indicators that will us to:

- **hold** ourselves accountable for the commitments in this policy.
- **operate** with transparency, offering all Australians confidence that their valuable resources are being deployed responsibly and effectively.



## Key commitments

### To be more effective and responsive to the priorities of our region, we will for example:

- **build** more genuine and respectful partnerships, including by refreshing our approach to country and regional plans
- **anchor** our approach in our strengths, including by embedding the perspectives of First Nations Australians in our development efforts
- **increase** our climate investments by ensuring that, from 2024–25, at least half of all new bilateral and regional investments valued at more than \$3 million will have a climate change objective, with a goal of reaching 80 per cent in 2028–29
- **support** all people to fulfill their potential, including through new international strategies for gender equality, and disability equity and rights
- **enhance** support for gender equality by ensuring that 80 per cent of investments address gender equality effectively, and all new investments over \$3 million include gender equality objectives
- **provide** multi-year funding and capacity development to local organisations, with support as needed to meet policy requirements
- **design** a new Civil Society Partnerships Fund that will support local civil society organisations
- **develop** a new humanitarian strategy to ensure we deliver results for people affected by crises, help reduce need, and build resilience
- **use more** innovative development financing to expand available funding.

### To drive implementation and deliver quality, effectiveness, and transparency we will for example:

- **deliver** an improved performance and delivery system
- **step up** our focus on evaluation and pilot impact assessments and real-time reviews
- **create** a new online portal to provide access to key data and information about our programs
- **enhance** accountability for our results, including through an annual Performance of Australian Development Cooperation Report
- **extend** our reporting to relevant whole-of-government Official Development Assistance (ODA) and non-ODA activities to better capture Australia's positive development impact
- **invest in** our development capability to ensure more effective outcomes from our programs
- **improve** the integration of development with other tools of statecraft, including through whole-of-government governance structures for development.