



Australian Government's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The Australian Government is showing its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in the following ways.

Partnerships:

Across the Australian aid program, AusAID partners with a number of child focused non-government organisations (NGOs) that work to improve the lives of children and their communities living in poverty overseas.

In 2009-10 AusAID will provide \$22.3 million through the AusAID NGO Cooperation Program to support the activities of AusAID accredited child focused agencies, including ChildFund Australia, Plan International Australia, Save the Children Australia and World Vision Australia. This contribution helps children around the world affected by poverty, including assistance to deal with disasters, the impacts of HIV/AIDS, and provides more opportunities for education.

UNICEF Australia is an important development partner for the Australian Government. In December 2008, AusAID signed a partnership framework with UNICEF which commits Australia to providing core funding of \$93.6 million from 2008 until 2011.

Through the partnership, Australia is supporting UNICEF's five focus areas of:

- Young child survival and development
- Basic education and gender equality
- HIV/AIDS
- Child protection
- Policy advocacy and partnerships for children's rights.

The Australian Government is also supporting UNICEF's work at regional and country level. For example, Australia's support to UNICEF in the Pacific has increased immunisation coverage rates for most countries (averaging over 80 per cent) and supported the development of a regional child protection framework. In Nepal, Australia's support to UNICEF has improved infant health by maintaining national vitamin A coverage at around 95 per cent.

Human Rights Small Grants Scheme

The Australian Government supports non-government organisations around the world to promote and protect the rights of children through the Human Rights Small Grants Scheme. For example:

- In Vietnam, the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation is training police, social workers and government officials on the rights of children who come into contact with the criminal justice system.
- In Mongolia, the National Network of Mongolian Women's NGOs is educating young people about human rights, democracy and gender equality and supporting human rights training of youth by youth.
- In Sri Lanka, Terre des Hommes Foundation is building a system of local human rights defenders, focusing on child rights violations in 15 villages in Batticaloa District.



These activities are helping communities and children to stand up for their human rights and for government institutions to be better equipped to protect and advance children's rights.

Anti Trafficking Activities

The Australian aid program is helping to address the underlying causes of child trafficking and exploitation through its focus on poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Additionally, Australia supports a number of targeted activities to strengthen the capabilities of governments and communities to combat trafficking and labour exploitation. The Asia Regional Trafficking in Persons (ARTIP) Project (2006-2011), for example, assists governments in South East Asia to strengthen their criminal justice systems to better identify and prosecute traffickers and improve treatment of victims.

Australia has also provided long-term support for activities to combat child sex tourism in the region, a crime with links to trafficking and labour exploitation. AusAID is currently designing a new multi-year program to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the Mekong region.

The Australian aid program also supports a range of non-government and other organisations that work directly on child protection and provide support for victims of human trafficking.

Visit www.aisaid.gov.au for more information.