



ESTIMATED BUDGET AUSTRALIAN ODA 2021-22	\$40.4 MILLION
POPULATION	655 MILLION (2019)

Australia's ASEAN and Mekong development cooperation programs help ASEAN and our Southeast Asian partners implement a coordinated response to shared regional challenges such as constraints to trade, water management, human trafficking and infrastructure needs.

### Strategic framework

Australia pivoted its development program in 2020 to respond to the challenges posed by COVID-19. Under the new policy, *Partnerships for Recovery*, ASEAN and its institutions remain critical assets for building an open, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific.

This is set out in *Australia's ASEAN and Southeast Asia Regional COVID-19 Development Response Plan*. It complements work under Australia's bilateral COVID-19 development response plans.

### Program highlights

- We supported Mekong countries to undertake early **detection of COVID-19** in wastewater.
- Our flagship **economic program** helped to shape ASEAN's economic response following the outbreak of COVID-19, including providing Australian expert advice to adapt the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity to the new context.
- We ensured **counter-trafficking** efforts in the region continued by addressing new vulnerabilities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, providing PPE and strengthening the justice sector in ASEAN Member States.
- We supported counselling, information, training and legal assistance on **safe migration** for nearly **27,000 migrant workers** in ASEAN (2019-20).
- We provided increased access to **financial services** to over **2.9 million low-income earners and enterprises** in ASEAN (2019-20).

# ASEAN and Mekong

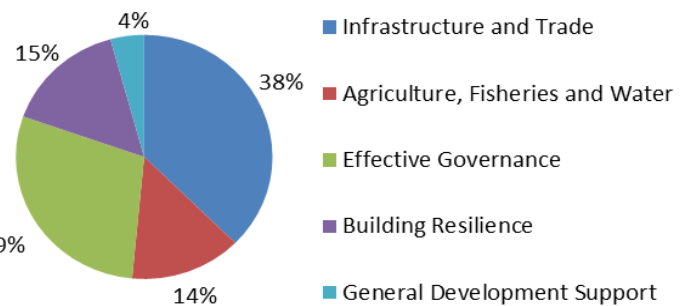
Development Cooperation Factsheet:  
May 2021



Australian ODA	2019-20 Actual Outcome (\$m)*	2020-21 Budget Estimate (\$m)*	2021-22 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Infrastructure and Trade	11.5	14.6	14.4
Agriculture, Fisheries and Water	3.3	5.2	5.4
Effective Governance	12.4	11.2	11.1
Education	0.0		0.0
Health	-		2.0
Building Resilience	2.9		5.9
General Development Support	1.8	7.4	1.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>40.4</b>

\*Due to rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**Australian ODA to ASEAN and Mekong, by Investment Priorities 2021-22 Budget Estimate**



### For more details:

- [Overview of Australia's ASEAN and Mekong Programs](#)
- [ASEAN and Southeast Asia Regional COVID-19 Development Response Plan](#)
- [2019-20 ASEAN and Mekong Regional Development Program Performance Report](#)

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

