Australia is supporting Bangladesh to invest in human development, skills and productivity, and provide humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya crisis.

Strategic direction

As Bangladesh continues its trajectory towards graduation from least developed country status, Australia’s development cooperation investments will prioritise improving the effectiveness of Government expenditure while focusing on building a skilled workforce for economic growth and economic governance.

In alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Australia’s development cooperation with Bangladesh is building resilience by reducing vulnerability, improving inclusion in the growing economy and increasing education opportunities in primary school education and through the Australia Awards program.

In 2019–20, Australia will continue to support Rohingya refugees and host communities to meet basic needs and develop self-reliance. More than 1.2 million people remain in need in Bangladesh’s Cox’s Bazar district, including over 840,000 Rohingya refugees who fled to Bangladesh in response to the violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar in August 2017.

Program highlights

- In 2018, Australia supported 43,682 women and their households to graduate from ultra-poverty, making a significant difference to the lives of poor people (SDG1 and SDG5).
- Australian support in 2018 assisted over 1.4 million youth to access life skills training and adolescent youth centres, and more than 1.4 million children to enrol in school (SDG4).
- Since 2017, Australia has provided over $160 million in total for humanitarian funding to respond to the Rohingya crisis, including $123 million in Bangladesh. To date Australia’s support has provided life-saving assistance to 90,000 people. Australian has helped avert malnutrition, prevent the outbreak of major epidemics and keep thousands of women and girls safe from the threat of exploitation and violence.

For more details:

Australia’s Aid Investment Plan for Bangladesh 2015-16 to 2018.