



DISABILITY

Development Cooperation Factsheet: March 2021

Approximately 1 in 7 people globally have a disability – around 1 billion people – and they and their families are disproportionately affected by poverty. People with disabilities are also disproportionately vulnerable to the health, economic and social impacts of COVID-19 and may experience barriers to keeping safe from contracting COVID-19.

Strategic direction

Disability inclusion, like gender equality, is a crosscutting priority for Australia’s international engagement on human rights, development and humanitarian action, including our COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Australia’s development strategy, *Partnerships for Recovery: Australia’s COVID-19 Development Response*, reaffirms our commitment to the most vulnerable, including women and girls, people with disabilities and those living in poverty.

Australia takes a ‘twin track’ approach to disability inclusion – supporting disability-specific investments as well as including people with disabilities as participants and beneficiaries of development efforts across all sectors.

Disability inclusion contributes towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

- SDG4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education;
- SDG10 on reducing inequality; and
- SDG17 on enhancing the collection of high quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by disability.

Consistent with the principle ‘nothing about us without us’, Australia supports an active and central role for people with disabilities and their representative organisations in the achievement of all SDGs-particularly in tackling the causes of poverty, exclusion and inequality.

Australian ODA	2018-19 Actual (\$m)*	2019-20 Actual (\$m)*	2019-20 Actual %
Pacific	25.1	17.2	16.8
Southeast and East Asia	52.2	20.0	19.6
South and West Asia	19.7	30.9	30.2
Africa and the Middle East	0.2	13.5	13.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.1	0.0	0.0
Rest of the World**	11.7	20.7	20.2
Total Australian Disability Inclusion ODA	109.2	102.3	100.0

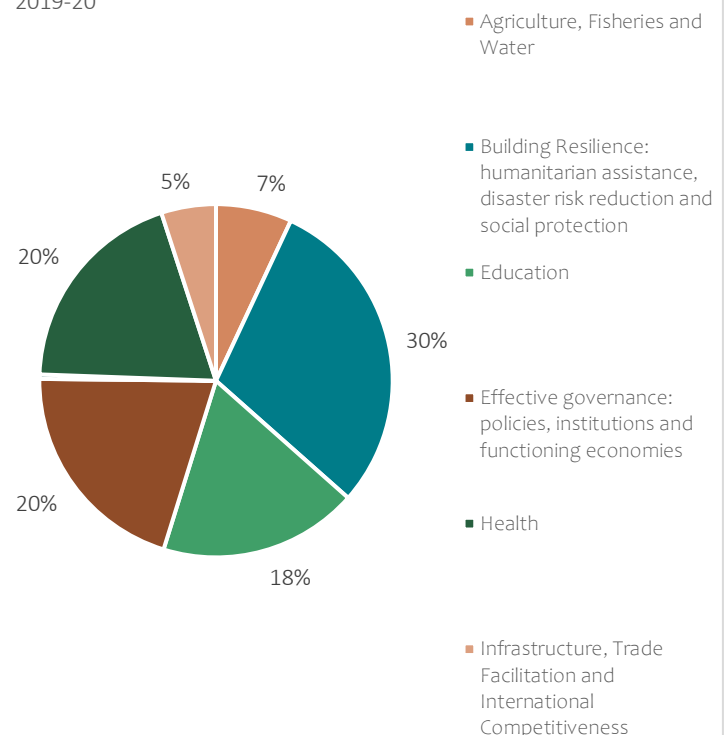
For more details:

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

**Includes ODA that is not attributed to particular countries or regions.

[Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia’s aid program \(extended to 2021\)](#)

Australian Disability Inclusion by Investment Priority, 2019-20



Sector Performance

In addition to our work at a country level, we have:

- Continued to support key international partners including the International Disability Alliance, the Pacific Disability Forum and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, enabling them to adjust their operations to supporting disability-inclusive COVID-19 responses.
- Supported a disability inclusive COVID-19 response by the UN system through the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Strengthened implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), through our work with the International Disability Alliance, the Pacific Disability Forum, other disabled people's organisations, NGOs and UN agencies.
- Supported UNICEF Rights, Education and Protection of Children (REAP II) partnership (2015-2020) to promote quality inclusive services for children with disabilities in Vietnam, PNG, Vanuatu and the Pacific region.
- Supported Rosemary Kayess, the first Australian woman elected to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disability, for her term 2019-2022.

Evaluations

In November 2018, the Office of Development Effectiveness published '[Development for All: Evaluation of progress made in strengthening disability inclusion in Australian aid](#)'. The evaluation found good progress in strengthening disability inclusion in bilateral and regional development programs, humanitarian assistance and global programs. An earlier ODE report '[Unfinished business: Evaluation of Australian advocacy for disability-inclusive development](#)', published in December 2017, found that Australia's international advocacy has been credible, effective and has contributed to changes in the approaches and policies of other development agencies.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



With assistance from the [Peduli program](#) in Indonesia, and after years of being an invisible citizen, Sriyanto; a person with Cerebral Palsy in Sukoharjo District, Central Java Province; proudly held his national identity card for the first time. Credit: Muhammad Aditya Setyawan.

Current Priorities

- Supporting **increased inclusion** of people with disabilities in Australia's development program, including our COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.
- Enhancing **meaningful involvement and rights** of people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, and their representative organisations.
- Improving **international cooperation** on disability inclusive development, including through supporting international capacity in disability data.

Gender equality

In 2019 the Vanuatu Skills Partnership (VSP) received the inaugural Secretary's Disability Inclusion Award. The VSP is supporting reform of service delivery in the post-school education and training system. Disability inclusion is mainstreamed throughout the program, including its focus on women's economic empowerment. For example, women with disabilities comprised 17 per cent of all female participations in agribusiness training.

Disability inclusion

In 2018-19 40 per cent of all development cooperation investments were rated satisfactory for actively involving disabled people's organisations and 45 per cent were rated satisfactory for identifying and addressing barriers to inclusion.

Innovation

Australia continues to support the [Disability Rights Advocacy Fund \(DRAF\)](#) which uses an innovative, participatory grant making process to support giving voice to people with disabilities by building the capacity of their representative organisations.