



DISABILITY

Development cooperation fact sheet: October 2019

Approximately 1 in 7 people globally have a disability – around 1 billion people – and they and their families are disproportionately affected by poverty. Disability is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. Disability inclusion in development cooperation contributes to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Strategic direction

Australia’s development cooperation program promotes improved quality of life for people with disabilities in developing countries by focusing on:

- **enhancing empowerment, leadership and decision-making** in community, government and the private sector;
- **reducing poverty;** and
- **improving equality in all areas of public life.**

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.

For more details:

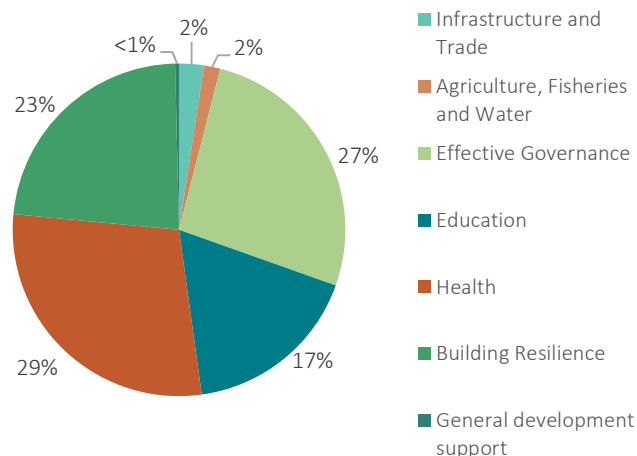
- [Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia’s aid program](#)

Australian ODA	2016-17 Actual (\$m)*	2017-18 Actual (\$m)*	2017-18 Actual (%)*
Pacific	38.7	24.0	21.8
Southeast and East Asia	48.0	56.9	51.7
South and West Asia	5.3	20.9	19.0
Africa and the Middle East	3.9	1.6	1.5
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.1	0.3	0.3
Rest of the World**	10.0	6.3	5.7
Total Australian Disability Inclusion ODA	106.0	110.1	100

*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.

Australian Disability Inclusion ODA by Investment Priority, 2017-18



Sector Performance

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

- Strengthened implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), through our work with the International Disability Alliance, other disabled people’s organisations, NGOs and UN agencies.

- Built global evidence and data collection capacity with the [Washington Group on Disability Statistics](#), to enable better tracking of progress for people with disabilities.
- Strengthened international coordination on disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action, as co-chair of the [Global Action on Disability \(GLAD\) Network](#).
- Supported UNICEF Rights, Education and Protection of Children (REAP II) partnership (2015-2019) to promote quality inclusive services for children with disabilities in Vietnam, PNG, Vanuatu and the Pacific region.
- Improved the quality of life of people with disabilities by supporting the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) in the Western Pacific region](#), strengthen health and rehabilitation systems and implement community-based rehabilitation services in the region.

Evaluations

The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE) has completed two strategic evaluations of Australia's support for disability-inclusive development. In November 2018, ODE 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.



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 our development cooperation program.
- 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

Supporting leadership by women with disabilities helps overcome gender based exclusion. Through the Women's Refugee Commission, we support women with disabilities to take leadership on humanitarian issues, including through providing technical support and training on humanitarian issues to women representatives of disabled people's organisations, and advocating for global policy and practice change.

Disability inclusiveness

In 2017-18 about half of all development cooperation investments (40 % by number of investments, 60 % by value of investments) were assessed as disability inclusive.

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.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

