



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FACTSHEET

Education and Skills

MAY 2025

Overview

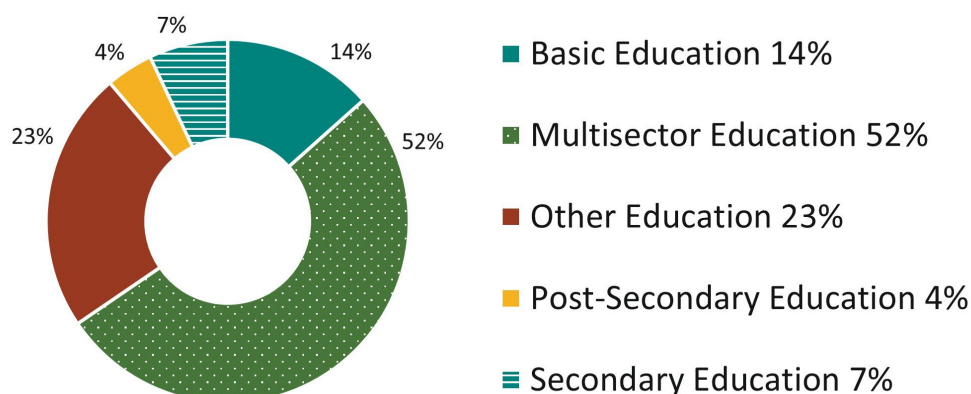
Table 1: Australian ODA to Education and Skills, 2023-24 to 2025-26

Region	2023-24 Actual (\$m)*	2024-25 Budget Estimate (\$m)*	2025-26 Budget Estimate (\$m)*
Pacific	249.4	256.6	225.9
Southeast Asia	224.2	224.5	212.0
South and Central Asia	61.4	58.6	68.7
Middle East and Africa	16.9	18.8	20.8
Rest of the World^	46.5	37.4	44.9
Total ODA to Education and Skills	598.4	595.7	572.4
Percentage total of Australian ODA	12.4%	12.0%	11.2%

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

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

Figure 1: Australian Education and Skills ODA by Sub-sector, 2025-26 budget estimate



Sustainable Development Goals



Education is central to building a shared future with our region.

Education is a human right, a catalyst for development and a powerful driver for reducing poverty and building strong, inclusive and resilient communities. Australia's education investments in the Indo-Pacific help prepare children and young people to contribute fully in their communities.

Strategic direction

Australia's education investments support regional partners to progress towards SDG4 targets and identify areas for collective engagement. We are increasing our focus on evidence-based education and skills investments, especially for women, girls and people with disabilities.

We are listening and responding to partner government priorities and the needs of schools and communities. Together, we are working to improve literacy and numeracy, essential for future learning and employment opportunities. Australia is also expanding access to its world-class education resources, alongside policy exchange and partnership opportunities, to reduce disadvantage, foster leadership, accelerate economic growth and support stability and security in our region.

Program highlights

- Under the *Vuvale* Partnership, **Fiji and Australia** are working together towards high-quality and inclusive education, training and skills in Fiji. Our development assistance supports primary and secondary schools, skills development, tertiary studies and other regional organisations.
- Australia has been investing in the **University of the South Pacific (USP)**, the region's pre-eminent tertiary organisation, for over 5 decades. In 2024, over 4,000 students graduated from across USP's 14 regional campuses with tertiary qualifications.
- Australia invests in the Pacific Community's **Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP)** to provide technical education services to 15 Pacific Island countries. In 2024, EQAP conducted field trials with 2469 students from 37 schools across the Pacific in preparation for the 2025 Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA).
- In Papua New Guinea, the **Partnerships for Improving Education (PIE)** program delivers technical assistance and grants to support improved educational outcomes for early grades (Prep to Grade 2) in alignment with PNG's National Education Plan. In 2024, PIE continued to deliver meaningful results strengthening access and retention, teacher education and improving systems. PIE's investment in access and quality in the early grades is improving educational outcomes for over five thousand teachers and more than 100,000 students in four regionally representative locations.
- With Australia's support, in 2024 in **Lao PDR** a Lao language support program was rolled out, targeted at primary students from ethnic communities. It focussed on ensuring greater inclusion for learners from non-Lao-speaking backgrounds.
- Australia contributed to key **Philippine education policy reforms**, including the passage of a new law promoting enterprise-based education and training (Republic Act 12063) and institutionalisation of competency standards in teacher and principal promotions.