



Gender equality and the empowerment of women contributes to growth, development, stability and security. Ensuring equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities for women and men, girls and boys, is in our national interest.

Strategic direction

Advancing gender equality and women's empowerment are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. These issues are a core part of the foreign policy, economic diplomacy and development cooperation work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Our approach is outlined in the [DFAT Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy](#). The strategy establishes three connected and mutually reinforcing priorities that guide our investments on gender equality:

- enhancing women's voices in **decision-making, leadership and peace-building**;
- promoting women's **economic empowerment**; and
- **ending violence** against women and girls.

These are three areas where progress is slowest but also where success could have the greatest impact for gender equality and broader prosperity and peace.

DFAT incorporates gender equality into all aspects of our work, across all sectors.

Current Priorities

DFAT's Gender Equality Fund (\$55 million annually) supports investments across the strategy's priority areas: as well as supporting the Women, Peace and Security agenda, women's resilience, leadership and meaningful participation, and investing in global gender data, research and performance. The fund also brings multilateral partnerships to Australia's region, and pursues innovative approaches in line with the priorities set out in DFAT's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy.

Sector Performance

Gender equality focused investments are funded through the Gender Equality Fund as well as throughout our bilateral, regional and global programs, with Australia making a difference on gender equality around the world.

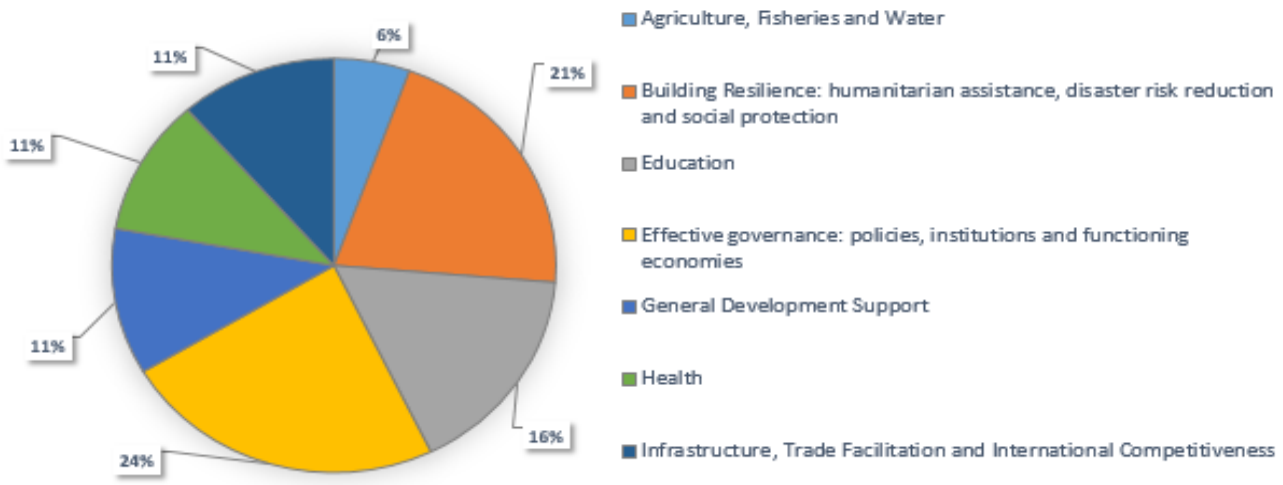
- In Vietnam, the Aus4Equality program (\$40.5 million, 2015-2022) supports women in Vietnam's disadvantaged remote northern areas start businesses to build their skills to take on leadership roles and break out of the cycle of poverty.
- Since 2007, Australia has committed \$35 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation's SPRINT initiative, which has responded to more than 78 humanitarian crises, providing over one million sexual and reproductive health services to vulnerable women, men and children in crisis and post-crisis situations..
- The second phase of the Australia-Indonesia Partnership for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (known as MAMPU) (\$51.9 million, 2016-20) focusses on developing women's collective capacity and supporting women to influence decision-making at multiple levels — from the village to national parliament.
- Australia forged a new partnership in 2018 with the European Union and UN Women – the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (\$7.6 million, 2018-22).
 - the partnership is funded through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development initiative (\$320 million, 2012-22).
- Through the Investing in Women Initiative (\$102 million, 2016-2023) we work to accelerate women's economic empowerment in South-East Asia by supporting workplaces to shift their culture, policies and practices towards greater gender equality, and encouraging investors to increase access to finance for women-owned and led small and medium enterprises.

Development cooperation expenditure targeting gender equality, 2018-19

In 2018-19, Australia spent \$1.3 billion on investments that targeted gender equality as a principal or significant objective, reflecting in large part the Department's efforts to integrate gender equality objectives across the development cooperation program. This equals 46 per cent of DFAT's country, regional and global development cooperation investments by value across a range of sectors.



Estimated expenditure targeting gender equality, by investment priority area 2018-19



Gender Equality Mainstreaming Performance in 2017-18

75% of DFAT’s development cooperation investments effectively addressed gender equality during implementation, regardless of their objectives, compared to the strategic target of 80% as established in the Australian development cooperation policy Making Performance Count.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Leaving No One Behind

Australia has entered into a partnership with Outright International to provide support for domestic violence prevention strategies for the LGBTI community through support for civil society and good governance projects.

Performance on gender equality mainstreaming, 2017-18

