The Foreign Policy White Paper recognises good health and strong and resilient health systems are important to support productive societies and economic growth, and that global cooperation is essential to guard against global health risks.

**Strategic direction**

Health investments save lives, underpin economic growth and prosperity, and protect Australia and the region against the risk of cross-border disease threats. The *Health for Development Strategy 2015-2020* covers investments in health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and basic nutrition —areas that are crucial to improving population health outcomes.

The Strategy’s main geographic focus is Southeast Asia and the Pacific, with priority investments in:

- core public health systems and capacities in key partner countries;
- combatting health threats that cross national borders;
- a more effective global health response;
- access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene and good nutrition as pre-conditions for good health; and
- innovative health approaches and solutions that benefit our region.

Australia’s development cooperation in the health sector contributes towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 which aims to ‘ensure healthy lives and to promote well-being for all at all ages’. Our support will also help improve access to good nutrition (SDG 2) and to clean water, sanitation and hygiene (SDG 6) as well as being a significant basis for achievement of many other SDGs.

**Sector Performance**

- During 2018, the *Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria* programs tested and treated 5.3 million people for TB, distributed 131 million insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria, and supported 18.9 million people access antiretroviral treatment for HIV.
- New grants were awarded to four *Product*...
Between 2016 and 2018, Australian assistance enabled more than 300 health workers, scientists, and researchers across PNG to undertake training, study exchanges, workshops, and supervisory visits at PNG, Chinese and Australian laboratory and research institutions, resulting in **skills and knowledge transfer, malaria laboratory systems strengthening, diagnosis and treatment capability**.

DFAT supported the **Royal Australasian College of Surgeons** in eight Pacific countries contributing to a better-connected and well-supported Pacific health workforce. In 2018-19, volunteer medical teams reached 340 patients across six surgical specialities.

In 2018, the **International Planned Parenthood Federation’s** Member Associations in the Pacific (excluding PNG) reached an estimated 100,000 clients with roughly 270,000 sexual and reproductive health services.

In 2018, **Gavi the Vaccine Alliance** supported the vaccination of 66 million additional children, and through market shaping efforts delivered a 4 per cent reduction from 2017 (21% reduction since 2015) in the cost of fully immunising a child with pentavalent, pneumococcal and rotavirus vaccines.

Australia’s contribution through a targeted **Australia Awards Fellowships (Health Security)** round, and support to the first Malaria World Congress, will build institutional capacity in Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, and foster productive networks to progress malaria elimination in the Indo-Pacific by 2030.

**Current Priorities**

- Preparing for emerging and re-emerging health security threats in our region, such as the recent coronavirus outbreak, through implementation of the **Health Security Initiative for the Indo-Pacific Region** – supporting partnerships, research, and workforce development to prepare and respond to infectious disease threats.

- **Strengthening health systems**, with Australia’s largest bilateral country health investments in PNG, the Solomon Islands, Cambodia and Timor-Leste.

- Supporting **global public-private partnerships, multilateral agencies and international NGOs** to extend the reach of our development cooperation program, including through contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Population Fund.

For more details:
*Health for Development Strategy 2015-2020*

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**Health Investment Performance, 2017-18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Whole of aid program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of aid investments rated satisfactory

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**Australia-China-Papua New Guinea Pilot Cooperation on Malaria Control Project**: Francis Lelngei, a medical scientist from Papua New Guinea’s Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL), and Associate Professor Li Jin, from the Shandong Institute of Parasitic Diseases, have successfully established a highly sensitive diagnostic technique for the detection of malaria at CPHL.