



WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT

Development cooperation fact sheet: October 2019

Australia’s investments improve management of scarce water resources, increase opportunities for economic growth, and improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

Strategic direction

Water insecurity, inadequate access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and poor hygiene practices significantly undermine development.

The world faces a projected 40 per cent freshwater shortfall by 2030 while 2.5 billion people (one-third of the world’s population) lack access to improved sanitation and 663 million people remain without sustainable and improved sources of drinking water.

Australia works closely with partner governments, civil society and the private sector to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) – achieving **water and sanitation** for all. Australia’s global, regional and bilateral development cooperation investments in this sector aim to improve access to safe drinking **water, sanitation and hygiene** and management of scarce **water resources**.

The Foreign Policy White Paper confirms Australia “will share our water management expertise to enhance agricultural productivity, improve health outcomes, strengthen economies and reduce poverty”.

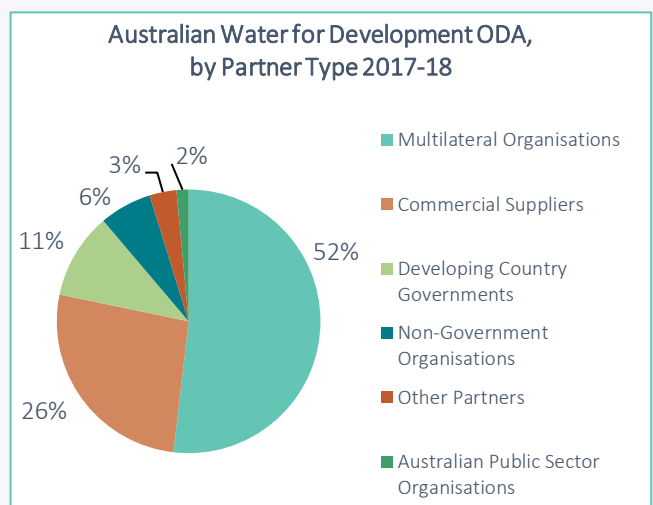
One of the main vehicles by which we share our water expertise is the Australian Water Partnership (AWP). In 2018-19 AWP provided technical assistance in water resources management to more than 20 countries in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

For example, in 2018, an AWP project saw twenty-two Australian partners working with Myanmar’s Water Resources Committee to draw up a comprehensive State of the Basin Assessment of the Ayeyarwady River basin.

This assessment is now enabling the Myanmar Government to plan the sustainable use of the Ayeyarwady River for economic development while protecting the ecosystem of the basin which covers 60 per cent of Myanmar’s landmass and is home to 37 million people.

Australian ODA	2017-18 Actual (\$m)*	2018-19 Estimated Outcome (\$m)*	2019-20 Budget Estimate (\$m)
Pacific	5.4	26.7	21.2
Southeast and East Asia	82.1	77.7	96.9
South and West Asia	15.2	8.1	8.6
Africa and Middle East	2.6	1.9	1.5
Rest of the World**	65.6	54.4	25.7
Total Australian Water for Development ODA	170.8	168.8	153.8

*Due to rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.
**Includes ODA not attributed to particular countries or regions.



Sector performance

Increased access to safe water for approximately 1.4 million women and men and **increased access to basic sanitation** for 2 million women and men in 2017-18.

- At its conclusion in mid-2018, the Civil Society Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Fund program had improved sustainable access to **safe water, sanitation and hygiene** for 5.3 million people.



Current Priorities

- Work with partner governments and international organisations to better manage **water scarcity** in the Indo-Pacific region and globally in the context of climate change. DFAT is currently designing a new water scarcity program.
- Continue to build regional partnerships through the Australian Water Partnership which supports improved **water resource management**.
- Continue to support delivery of sustainable **WASH services** to communities in developing countries through the Water for Women Fund.
- Improve **gender equality** results in our water management and WASH investments through **economic empowerment** and enhanced roles in decision-making for women and girls.
- Support an integrated approach to **water management** challenges, which addresses food

and energy security, and protects the environment.

For more details:

Three strategies guide our official development cooperation expenditure on water for development:

- Improving [water resource management](#) requires strengthening markets, innovating for productivity and sustainable resource use, and promoting effective policy, governance and reform. See the [Strategy for Australia's aid investments in agriculture, fisheries and water](#)
- Increasing access to WASH services as pre-conditions for good health. See the [Health for Development Strategy](#)
- Ensuring large scale water and sanitation infrastructure is well-built, operated and maintained. See the [Strategy for Australia's investments in Economic Infrastructure](#)

