



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



# AID PROGRAM, PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015-16

Sub-Saharan African

September 2016



## KEY MESSAGES

The Aid Program Performance Report (APPR) summarises the progress of Australia's aid investments in Sub-Saharan Africa for the period July 2015 to June 2016. It reports on the effectiveness of the program against objectives outlined in the Sub-Saharan African Aid Investment Plan 2015-19.

In 2015-16, the Sub-Saharan African Aid Program made good progress against its objectives, despite challenging economic and political contexts in many countries.

Key highlights during 2015-16 included:

- Ninety-eight per cent of Alumni surveyed in 2015 reported that they were applying their Award acquired learning to their job, demonstrating continued effective implementation of the Australia Awards program to Africa despite significant scaling down of planned activities over 2015-16.
- Australia's support to the Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) enabled 129,000 poor men and women in Kenya's four poorest counties to access regular cash transfers to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to shocks.
- Australia's support for the Zimbabwe window of the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) in 2015 contributed to an estimated 822,040 poor men and women increasing their incomes.
- Australia's humanitarian support to South Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2015 provided life-saving assistance to 731,000 vulnerable men, women and children.
- A regional Gender Action Plan was developed, supported by implementation plans for the seven Posts. We continued to advocate for all investments being informed by gender equality analysis.

## CONTEXT

Sub-Saharan Africa is a diverse region spanning 49 countries, with approximately 973.4 million people.<sup>1</sup> Rates of growth and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa were influenced by a wide range of global and regional factors in 2015-16. Overall, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita for the region remained low in 2015 at 3.4 per cent, down from 4.6 per cent in 2014. This was the weakest annual growth rate since 2009.<sup>2</sup>

Although poverty incidence has declined across Africa over recent decades, the number of poor Africans has increased due to population growth.<sup>3</sup> According to the 2016 Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPIs), 544 million people (54% of the total population) were enduring multidimensional poverty, compared to 388 million poor people according to the \$1.90/day measures in 2016.<sup>4</sup> By these measures, East and West Africa contain the largest proportion of poor. Poverty reduction has been slowest in fragile countries with rural areas remaining much poorer than cities. Seven of the ten most unequal countries in the world are in Africa, most of them in Southern Africa. Household survey data shows an increase in the number of extremely wealthy Africans is a major driver of inequality.<sup>5</sup>

Overall, Africa continued to make progress against the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).<sup>6</sup> Compared with 1995, adult literacy rates are up by four per cent, the gender gap is shrinking, newborns can expect to live six years longer and the prevalence of chronic malnutrition among under five year olds is down six per

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators>


<sup>2</sup> Global Economic Prospects, January 2016, Sub-Saharan Africa

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, 2016, Poverty in a Rising Africa

<sup>4</sup> Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2016 <http://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/the-2016-multidimensional-poverty-index-was-launched-yesterday-what-does-it-say/>.

<sup>5</sup> World bank, op cit

<sup>6</sup> While the MDGs were superseded in 2015 by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), individual country planning around agreed measurement of SDGs remains ongoing



cent to 39 per cent. However, despite substantial improvement in school enrolment rates, the quality of schooling is often low and more than two in five adults are still illiterate.

Slow economic activity and ongoing regional vulnerabilities contribute to the slow rate of poverty reduction in Africa. A combination of factors were responsible. External factors included lower commodity prices, tightened borrowing conditions, a slowdown in major trading partners' economies (especially China) and a decline in capital flows as the US normalised monetary policy. Domestic factors in some countries included political instability, corruption, conflict and insurgencies, drought and infrastructure constraints which affected the power supply in several countries.<sup>7</sup>

Sub-Saharan Africa is vulnerable to commodity price shocks, with fuels, ores and metals accounting for more than 60 per cent of the region's total exports in 2010-14 compared with manufactured goods (16%). The weakening of commodity prices in 2015 had considerable impact on the region and growth slowed in several resource rich countries including South Africa and Zambia.<sup>8</sup> Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China has grown rapidly in recent years although the US and Euro area remain the largest sources of FDI in the region. In some low-income states, including Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda and Tanzania, growth remained robust reflecting lower exposure to the commodity slowdown and downstream benefits from large scale infrastructure investments.

Sub-Saharan Africa continues to face significant gender equality challenges. The gender pay gap is 30 per cent compared to 24 per cent globally. Gaps in labour force participation (associated with lower growth rates) are estimated to reduce GDP per capita by nearly 9 per cent. Violence against women is widespread. Surveys conducted in the region reveal rates of up to 64 per cent.<sup>9</sup>

Although Ebola has been largely contained, the risk of pandemics to the region still remains high.<sup>10</sup> The impact of climate change is another risk to the region. Africa is the lowest carbon-emitter but suffers the most from the effects of climate change, through droughts (exacerbated by the effects of El Nino), coastal erosion and flooding.

Other key challenges to the region are causing persistent fragility in large parts of the continent, including escalating violence and conflicts which are fueling increased forced displacement, corruption and emerging threats in the form of trafficking, piracy and religious extremism.<sup>11</sup> For example, Al-Shabaab's activities caused an estimated 25 per cent drop in tourism in Kenya in 2015.<sup>12</sup> The 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) reveals 40 of 46 Sub-Saharan African countries have a serious corruption problem. Indicators for rule of law and justice score particularly badly. While some governments are reducing risks for business, there's little change for citizens with systemic corruption leaving many countries struggling to uphold basic rule of law.<sup>13</sup>

Vulnerability to shocks increases uncertainty, raising the cost of doing business in Africa and hampering productivity and growth.<sup>14</sup> According to the 2015-2016 edition of the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), Sub-Saharan Africa's economies remain largely non-competitive with only three of the region's countries Mauritius (46<sup>th</sup>), South Africa (49<sup>th</sup>) and Rwanda (58<sup>th</sup>) ranking in the top half of the GCI. The region also

---

<sup>7</sup> World Bank, op cit

<sup>8</sup> ibid

<sup>9</sup> UN Women Sub-Saharan Africa Fact Sheet, 2016; UN Women, Progress of the World's Women 2015-16, Transforming Economies, Realising rights, Chapter 6.

<sup>10</sup> What are the ten most competitive economies in Sub-Saharan Africa? 2016, (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/09/what-are-the-10-most-competitive-economies-in-sub-saharan-africa/>)

<sup>11</sup> World Bank, Poverty in a Rising Africa: Africa Poverty Report., <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/poverty-rising-africa-poverty-report>

<sup>12</sup> Countering Violent Extremism Policy Note, DFAT, 2016

<sup>13</sup> Transparency International, Sub-Saharan Africa Achieving the Africa we Want starts with the Rule of Law, 2016, <http://blog.transparency.org/2016/01/27/sub-saharan-africa-achieving-the-africa-we-want-starts-with-the-rule-of-law/>

<sup>14</sup> World Bank Overview: Africa, May 2016, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/overview#1>



occupies 15 of the bottom 20 places. While Sub-Saharan Africa has made progress in enhancing market reform, much more is needed to improve its institutions, infrastructure, and health and education sectors. The need to improve education systems is especially urgent given the region's emerging youth bulge, with more people reaching working age by 2035 in Sub-Saharan Africa than in the rest of the world combined.

Table 1 OECD donor country contributions to Africa – top five<sup>15</sup>

Donor	Aid Flows in 2014 (\$US million)	Aid Flows in 2013 (\$US million)
United States	9,338	9,667
United Kingdom	4,346	3,922
France	2,929	3,168
Germany	3,016	2,397
Japan	1,558	2,092

## EXPENDITURE

Table 2 Total ODA Expenditure in FY 2015-16

Objective	A\$ million	% of total ODA
<i>Bilateral</i>		
Objective 1: Contribute to African leadership and human capacity development in areas of critical skills shortages specifically in the areas of extractives, agricultural and public policy, where Australia has extensive experience and expertise.	30.2	25.7%
Objective 2: Enhance agriculture's contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and food security.	0.44	0.4%
Objective 3: Respond appropriately to humanitarian crises in Africa through working with effective humanitarian partners and supporting advocacy efforts for effective international humanitarian action. <sup>16</sup>	1.05	0.9%
Objective 4: Empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcomes. <sup>17</sup>	NA	
<b>Sub-Total Bilateral</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>27.0%</b>
Regional and Global total <sup>18</sup>	72.9	62.2%
Other Government Departments	12.6	10.8%
<b>Total ODA Expenditure</b>	<b>117.2</b>	

<sup>15</sup> Development Aid at a glance (2015), Statistics by Region – Africa, p.2

<sup>16</sup> Total humanitarian funding to Africa was \$29.76m, predominately delivered through global funds.

<sup>17</sup> Gender equality is mainstreamed across Australia's aid portfolio to Africa.

<sup>18</sup> Global funds include the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), humanitarian funding and volunteers.

# PROGRESS TOWARDS OBJECTIVES

Table 3 Rating of the Program's Progress towards Australia's Aid Objectives

Objective	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Objective 1: <i>Contribute to African leadership and human capacity development in areas of critical skills shortages specifically in the areas of extractives, agricultural productivity and public policy, where Australia has extensive experience and expertise.</i>	NA*	Green
Objective 2: <i>Enhance agriculture's contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and food security.</i>	Amber	Amber
Objective 3: <i>Respond appropriately to humanitarian crises in Africa through working with effective humanitarian partners and supporting advocacy efforts for effective international humanitarian action.</i>	Green	Green
Objective 4: <i>Empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcomes.</i>	NA*	Amber

Note:

**Green.** Progress is as expected at this stage of implementation and it is likely that the objective will be achieved. Standard program management practices are sufficient.

**Amber.** Progress is somewhat less than expected at this stage of implementation and restorative action will be necessary if the objective is to be achieved. Close performance monitoring is recommended.

**Red.** Progress is significantly less than expected at this stage of implementation and the objective is not likely to be met given available resources and priorities. Recasting the objective may be required.

\* Not an objective in last year's APPR.

## OBJECTIVE 1: Contribute to African leadership and human capacity development in areas of critical skills shortages specifically in the areas of extractives, agricultural productivity and public policy, where Australia has extensive experience and expertise.

Progress against this objective is rated as green given the success of Australia's flagship program to Africa, Australia Awards, in meeting its performance benchmarks and largely meeting program objectives.


Australia Awards seeks development outcomes from Alumni contributions and positive relationships with Australia. Approximately 98 per cent of Alumni surveyed in 2015 reported applying their Award acquired skills and knowledge to contribute to development outcomes (exceeding the target of 90%).<sup>19</sup> In 2015-16, there were approximately 5,500 Australia Awards Alumni in Africa.

The green rating is complemented by research, commissioned by Australian Development Research Awards Scheme (ADRAS) and published in December 2015, which showed there are broader societal benefits that may result from scholarships, including advancing economic productivity and the promotion of democracy and human rights. The authors found that Australian scholarships to Africans have the potential to spread Australian influence and that returnee scholars, by virtue of their study in Australia, gain the capacity to become agents for development in their country.<sup>20</sup>

The program scored high on efficiency over the reporting period, with DFAT and the Managing Contractor, Palladium, delivering quality, cost effective outputs within tight and competing deadlines. For example, in addition to scholarships, the program offered pivotal public diplomacy opportunities for African Posts with a strong developmental focus. Learning events were held on private sector engagement in Nigeria, women in leadership in Kenya (opened by the First Lady of Kenya) and Alumni leadership in Lusaka. These events were elements of a continuing professional development (CPD) program designed to expand the networks and skill sets of Alumni to contribute to development in their home countries and maintain links with

<sup>19</sup> Figures are based on small sample sizes which will be addressed over the coming year.

<sup>20</sup> Seye Abimbola, Rose Amazan, Pavle Vizintin, Leanne Howie, Robert Cumming & Joel Negin (2015): Australian higher education scholarships as tools for international development and diplomacy in Africa, Australian Journal of International Affairs, DOI: 10.1080/10357718.2015.1119230



Australia. The program also drew upon online technologies to extend the reach of CPD opportunities across the continent. In 2015, there were 700 registered members on Africa Connect, an online networking forum, and 84 per cent of all 2014-15 Awardees had self-registered on an online reintegration portal that tracks implementation of workplans on return.<sup>21</sup>

Australia Awards exceeded the performance benchmark that 45 per cent of scholarships be allocated to women with 46 per cent of Awards going to women in 2015-16 (compared to 47% in 2014). This target is important given the male dominated nature of the priority sectors (extractives, agricultural productivity and public policy). Over the five-year life of the previous phase of the program (2011-2016), women received 50 per cent of all Award offers. This was assisted by targeted outreach in 2015 to potential female candidates in countries where rates of female applicants were especially low and the use of online tools to track application downloads and promotions data, enabling the revision of promotions strategies targeting women. More analysis will be undertaken over coming months to identify reasons for low rates of female applicants overall (approximately 30%). The program also continued to extend support for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment issues to Alumni via the Women in Leadership Network. In 2015, 85 per cent of those surveyed reported being active in promoting Awards to women.

Almost eight per cent of Awards were offered to people living with a disability or working in the disability sector (exceeding the aspirational target of 2-5%). The Program will continue to explore ways to strengthen the quality of support provided to Awardees living with a disability as well as successful targeting of prospective Award candidates (14 Disabled Persons Organisations were targeted in 2015).

The program maintained strong alignment with foreign policy objectives and continued to focus on three key sectors: agriculture (28% short courses, 27% Masters); extractives (28% short courses, 17% Masters); and public policy (45% short courses, 10% Masters). In addition, Masters scholarships were also awarded to other sectors of importance to partner governments, including health (17%) and environment (10%).

The strong results were achieved despite significant challenges in 2015-16. These included further budget consolidation, tendering for a new phase of the program and a high level of staff turnover. The revised budget envelope led to a reduction in the number of Awards offered (from 400 to 152) and associated activities.

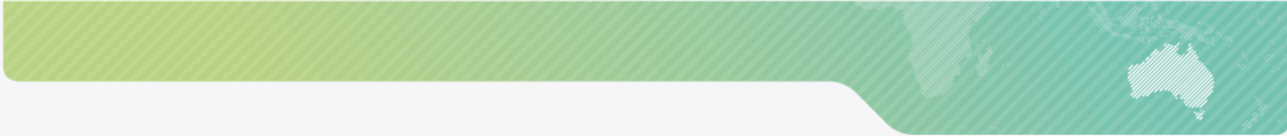
More stringent assessment of the program against key quality criteria this year resulted in lower ratings for the 2015-16 aid quality reporting period when compared with 2014-15 ratings: effectiveness, monitoring and evaluation and gender equality all scored 'satisfactory' this year as opposed to 'good' in 2014-15; the sustainability of the program was tested by the budget reductions and rated 'less than satisfactory'. To some extent, this was also impacted by the delays associated with the reorientation of the program over 2015-16.

Outcomes-level data for scholarships is difficult to capture and program reporting during the 2015-16 period remained heavily weighted towards outputs. Considerable resources have been invested into the development of an improved monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the next phase of the program, which seeks to more thoroughly address the longer term development, public diplomacy and economic diplomacy objectives of the Australia Awards program in the future. The revised M&E framework will have a stronger focus on tracking the extent to which the Awards program enhances Awardees' knowledge and appreciation of social inclusion and gender issues as well as how the program influences gender outcomes in Awardees respective countries, workplaces and/or communities.

Australia also continued to provide support up until December 2015 through capacity building activities in Australia's key strategic areas of focus in Sub-Saharan Africa through the Australia Africa Partnerships

---

<sup>21</sup> Workplans on return (WPRs) are an essential tool for the program, whereby awardees demonstrate strong links with their organisation's mission, annual workplan and identified capacity development needs. WPRs are considered during the application process, refined while on-award and continue to be updated and reported against upon the awardees' return home.



Facility (AAPF). DFAT's support (\$125 million over 2009-2015) aimed to build and promote relationships with African countries and help African countries to achieve their development priorities through: i) effective provision of targeted technical assistance; and ii) providing tools and practical opportunities for learning by doing. While objectives remained hard to measure at the outcome level, outputs were generally delivered on time and within budget. The principle AAPF activity in 2015-16 was the Infrastructure Skills for Development (IS4D) capacity building program, in partnership with the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). During 2015-16, IS4D provided project management skills to key public sector project managers working on regional power and transport corridors in Eastern and Southern Africa. Support provided to 38 participants from eight countries has resulted in the signing of a MoU between Malawi and Zambia to connect their electricity grids and South Sudan meeting the necessary transport criteria for joining the East African Community. DFAT approved an additional \$2.1 million for a second phase of the program during 2016. An independent evaluation of the IS4D will be undertaken in 2016.

AAPF's approach to gender equality improved during its lifecycle, moving from a focus on achieving gender equality targets among participants to a broader, more systematic focus on ensuring gender equality and social inclusion considerations were integrated into activity content. M&E tools were reviewed to integrate gender equality into activities and new activities were reviewed by a Gender Adviser. This is particularly important given the prominence of men in the extractives sector. Notable Alumni activities which helped to promote these issues include: raising awareness of domestic violence at mine sites; supporting better water management techniques among female producers; and facilitating a Uganda Parliament women's caucus - later used as a model to establish a similar caucus in Kenya.

Australia also contributed to building better extractives management of African Union (AU) members through its support (\$5 million) to the Africa Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) (2013-2017). The Centre is the only Pan African centre of its kind for extractives sector capacity building. However, the AMDC suffered from delays of up to two years in its establishment and the implementation of activities due to very slow and complex UN recruitment processes, political sensitivities between African member states and insufficient staff resourcing to manage projects. Timeliness was also constrained by the quality of partnerships between implementing agencies. The Centre performed much the same during 2015-16 as it did last year. Nonetheless, despite these challenges, the Centre managed to achieve notable results at the output level including: i) the development of Lesotho's Mining Bill and review of parts of the mining codes of Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Malawi, Niger, Sierra Leone as well as six Eastern African Community countries; ii) development of a continental Geological Management Information System (MIS) strategy as well as deep sea mining and African Blue Economy frameworks; establishment of the African Mineral Geosciences Centre; and iii) research and validation workshops on artisanal and small scale mining held in 16 countries in all four subregions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Gender equality considerations are receiving more attention and have now been addressed in the revised AMDC design document - indicators and disaggregated data form part of the AMDC workplan and the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF). National approaches to gender equality are being adopted through individual Country Mining Vision documents by UNDP and African members, although these vary across member states. AMDC works in partnership with the African Centre for Gender on research and publication of mining and gender equality issues. The transition of the AMDC to a specialised agency within the AU body could challenge the effectiveness of the Centre in the medium term especially given the uncertainty of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) project operating beyond 2017. AMDC will be evaluated in 2017. Australia's support to AMDC finishes in June 2017.

Australia's global contributions to Africa also continued to support improved extractives governance during 2015-16. Australia is a long-standing supporter of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which is a global transparency standard to promote open and accountable management of oil, gas and mineral resources. Australia was the largest donor (\$15.5 million) to the World Bank-managed EITI multi-





donor trust fund which supported 15 African countries with EITI implementation in 2015-16. Support was provided to multi-stakeholder groups and national secretariats responsible for publishing annual reports on extractives data in accordance with EITI requirements. The World Bank also supported outreach efforts in Burundi, Gabon, Kenya and Malawi. Australia is also the second largest donor to the EIFI Technical Advisory Facility, also managed by the World Bank, which has benefitted countries in Africa. Going forward, these two multi-donor trust funds are being consolidated and the work will continue under the new World Bank's Extractives Global Programme Support (EGPS) Multi-Donor Trust Fund.

Australia's support to the IMF's Managing Natural Resources Wealth Trust Fund helped legislative reform efforts in several African countries during 2015-16. For example, in Uganda the Fund helped amend legislation on Income Tax and Value Added Tax while in Sierra Leone the Fund assisted with the approval of Public Financial Management legislation by Cabinet for submission to Parliament. The Fund has also supported capacity building in several countries including financial modelling capacity of the Inter-Ministry Mining Tax Unit in Mali; training staff on fiscal modelling and revenue forecasting for oil and gas in Ghana; and in Tanzania, the Fund helped build capacity in extractive industry risk assessments.


## **OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance agriculture's contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and food security.**

Progress against this objective is rated as amber. This is due to solid but mixed performance against program objectives during 2015-16 including against identified performance benchmarks, some of which were exceeded (number of people increasing their incomes) while others were not met (number of people with increased access to financial services). Financial support for this objective was mostly delivered through grants paid in previous financial years, prior to budget reductions in 2014-15.

Australia's \$33.8 million contribution through the CSIRO Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI) (2010-2017) continued to track well against its objective of helping address food security challenges, particularly related to market development and agricultural productivity. CSIRO's partnership with Bioscience Eastern and Central Africa International Livestock Research Institute (BecA-ILRI) has generated the ability to detect and prevent aflatoxin (a highly carcinogenic substance) in maize crops and raise awareness among farmers and policy makers towards aflatoxin-free maize certification in Kenya. The project's partnership with the Kenya Cereal Millers Association has the potential to reach over ten million customers including the rural poor. The partnership has also advanced efforts to overcome African Swine Fever (ASF) through improved diagnostics, surveillance and epidemiology. A BecA-ILRI expert received a US Government award for whole genome sequencing of ASF viruses. The projects have provided alternative and rapid access to food and income for women and children through domestic cavy husbandry and forage improvement. BecA-ILRI is working on a MoU with the Botswana Veterinary Institute to produce a thermo-stable vaccine for Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) using protocols developed in Phase 2 of the CSIRO-BecA partnership.

DFAT's support for a third phase of CSIRO-BecA partnership did not proceed during 2015 following budget consolidation, impacting negatively on efforts to embed sustainability. Key elements of Phase 2 will conclude in October 2016, although support for the Africa Biosciences Challenge Fund (ABCF) will continue until May 2017. BecA's progress during 2015-16 in addressing recommendations relating to gender equality from the program's 2012 Mid Term Review (MTR) has resulted in significant program improvements in this area. The emphasis on gender sensitive selection criteria has resulted in a measurable increase in the number of women researchers in the CSIRO-BecA fellowships program and short courses. This was very encouraging, given the low proportion of female researchers in the sector. Data on the number of poor women and men using improved agricultural technologies was not provided by CSIRO for the 2015-16 aid quality reporting period, although consolidated reporting is expected at the end of the program.





Poor men and women in Africa continued to benefit from improved access to markets and agricultural production through Australia's support to the African Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF). Australia's funding through the AECF contributed to a Zimbabwe window (\$24 million) and to the Research into Business (RIB) window (\$9 million). The AECF provides matching grants to innovative business proposals which are set to benefit the poor.

In 2015, Australia's contribution (62% of the total) to the Zimbabwe window of AECF financially benefited an estimated 822,040 people, exceeding the performance benchmark of 620,000 people benefiting from increased incomes. An additional 120,435 people (24,087 households) also received increased access to financial services in 2015.

The Zimbabwe window of AECF continued to be challenged by the economic and political environment in Zimbabwe including: an unstable economic context, high debt to GDP ratio, liquidity constraints and policies such as indigenisation and pricing.<sup>22</sup> This affected development outputs and impacts. While the Zimbabwe window of AECF originally had 31 projects, by 2015 there were 23. AECF has a comprehensive M&E system, however, it has been difficult ensuring companies provide quality reporting on program results. A 2015 DFID Review reported total net wages amounting from AECF were USD15 million compared with an anticipated USD16 million, with a total net benefit for poor people of USD30 million, falling short of the USD42 million target.


The Zimbabwe window of AECF scored the same for gender equality as last year (unsatisfactory), however, the Fund has established key policies and approaches during 2015-16 to strengthen gender equality in future. It recently developed a gender equality strategy which includes actions for mainstreaming gender equality into projects and AECF organisations. Gender disaggregated data on key outcomes including the number of jobs created and people accessing financial services and credit are routinely collected. DFAT is in the process of commissioning a study into how the AECF might better integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into its programming.

RIB aims to help the private sector to commercialise existing, readily available and near complete agricultural research and technology products. While it is too early to judge the effectiveness of the second phase of RIB currently underway, projects under the first phase of RIB are starting to yield significant results. Some projects, however, are not sufficiently commercially focused and are already struggling. While this can be somewhat explained by the deliberately risky nature of AECF's funding model, this is also part of an ongoing dialogue with donors on the nature of risk and how much "failure" is acceptable. Nairobi Post has worked closely with RIB2's managing contractor (KPMG) to create a more robust M&E framework which includes baseline studies of all companies funded and a comprehensive schedule of site visits. In 2015, Australia's contribution through RIB increased incomes of 1,071,200 people. A large portion of this is attributed to the Mediae's Shamba Shape Up TV Program, which is improving agricultural productivity by successfully delivering extension information to farmers in an accessible (television) format.

Australia's support (\$24.6 million over 2011-2016) to the Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) and Index Based Livestock Insurance project (IBLI) has continued to provide a positive buffer to men and women susceptible to poverty while enhancing access to basic goods (such as food) and services (health and education). The program does this by providing regular cash payments to some of the poorest households in Kenya's four poorest counties. DFAT's support for HSNP and IBLI was channelled through a delegated cooperation agreement with DFID, which has worked well.

As of March 2016, Australia's contribution through HSNP contributed to 129,134 people benefiting from regular cash payments. Stakeholder feedback from interviews conducted by DFAT in 2015 found cash transfers provided beneficiaries with personal dignity and freedom. An independent impact evaluation of Phase 1 (conducted in 2013) found HSNP delivered well against its objectives by having a positive impact on household spending on health care and food as well as preventing further entrenched poverty. DFAT funds

<sup>22</sup> AECF Zimbabwe context report, 2015.



have also enabled the commissioning of strategic studies and trialling of innovative products such as emergency cash transfers.

Throughout the life of HSNP, there have been ongoing concerns with the program's capacity to reach the 100,000 household target, given ongoing problems with the issuing of national identity cards. During 2015-16, intensive efforts were made to address this. DFID has also worked closely with the Government of Kenya to establish and strengthen M&E systems including through an efficient Management Information System (MIS) which will be crucial for the sustainability of the program.

HSNP has performed strongly on gender equality, including the collection of sex disaggregated data, reporting and evaluations. Women form 60 per cent of regular and emergency beneficiaries. There is anecdotal evidence that HSNP has benefited women's social and economic empowerment (including examples of women taking more control over household budgets, accessing finance and establishing businesses and benefiting from greater engagement in their communities). The Impact Evaluation of Phase 1 reported that HSNP had the unintended consequence of creating tensions within some households, especially between female recipients and their husbands. However, the Annual Review of Phase 2 found anecdotal evidence to suggest this has since eased.


DFID cited 2015 as a particularly successful year for IBLI with sales exceeding the 3,000 policy target. By February 2016, over 6,000 households were insured against drought. Key challenges of IBLI have been high transaction costs and limited understanding among target populations of the IBLI product, both of which were addressed during 2015-16. DFAT Posts' engagement on IBLI has contributed to improvements in IBLI's monitoring over the life of the program. IBLI produces numerous reports and research papers, quarterly statistical reporting on numbers and locations of policies and priority is given to learning events. While IBLI has done well in targeting its product to women (40% of uptake is from women and female headed households), only ten per cent of sales agents are women. In 2016 the program will further examine gender equality approaches to better inform access to financial services and its overall approach.

The combined total number of men and women who gained increased access to financial services from Australia's support for AECF (120,435 people) and HSNP (more than 3,000 policy insurance target) for 2015 was 123,435 (this is considerably less the target of 620,000 additional men and women accessing financial services). This performance benchmark will be reviewed and revised accordingly.

Australia's support (\$13 million) through the System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) (2012-18) is meeting and, in some cases, exceeding program expectations by contributing to improved natural resource management and sustainable land use planning. The aim of the program is to establish a national system for reporting greenhouse gas emissions for the Government of Kenya. SLEEK is managed by the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE), supported by the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) as the in-country delivery partner (until 30 April 2016). DoEE intends to enter into a bilateral arrangement with the Government of Kenya to directly manage ongoing program and capacity development activities.

SLEEK made reasonable progress in 2015-16, including with the commencement of scholarships. During the first half of 2016, SLEEK established a system to collate and calculate carbon fluxes across the Kenyan land sector, using Kenyan data. The program has attracted interest from the FAO, NASA and the East African Community, in particular Rwanda and Uganda, and was showcased by the Kenyan Government at COP 21 in Paris in December 2015.

The institutionalisation of SLEEK has been underpinned by the establishment of a Programme Management Unit (PMU) within the Kenyan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to coordinate and administer the program. Monitoring and reporting of SLEEK's performance against development outcomes and efforts to promote sustainability are expected to improve accordingly. Gender equality is not a primary objective of the investment and SLEEK has struggled to consider gender equality issues from the outset. However, 50 per cent of SLEEK scholarships are offered to women and women occupy senior positions in the PMU.



Consideration of gender equality impacts of a measurement, reporting and verification (of greenhouse gas emissions and removals) system in Kenya are ongoing.

Australia also made noteworthy contributions to Sub-Saharan Africa's agriculture sector via the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) in 2015-16, which worked with ten Australian NGOs and their in-Africa partners across 11 African countries. Key results achieved during 2015 included: 36,750 poor men and women (24,323 females and 12,427 males) adopting innovative agricultural and fisheries practices; 15,101 poor men and women benefiting from increased incomes; 78,416 poor men and women gaining increased access to basic sanitation; 84,282 poor women and men gaining increased access to safe drinking water; 7,950 additional births being attended by a skilled birth attendant; and 18,484 girls and boys being vaccinated.

AACES's focus on disability inclusion has had significant impact on the quality of livelihoods of people with a disability. Australia's support through AACES has provided disability-appropriate facilities, services and priority access to inputs for people with a disability. AACES has also promoted the status of people with disability and encouraged greater participation in community structures. In 2014-15 alone, 4,590 poor women and men (2,482 women) with a disability benefited from increased access to services.

A program review conducted in 2015-16 found 817,933 people experienced improved agricultural productivity over the life of AACES (2011-2016).<sup>23</sup> In 2016, the AACES M&E system was nominated for an excellence award by the Australasian Evaluation Society, due to its innovative approach to program-level assessment of progress, combined with NGO project-level M&E.

During 2015-16, Australia continued to support enhanced agricultural productivity and food security through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Project results include: enhanced food security through improved farming techniques, savings and access to income generating opportunities, predicted to benefit up to 4,000 people in Zambia through World Vision; enhanced food security for up to 7,500 people (4,200 male and 3,300 female) in seven villages in the Karonga District of Northern Malawi through training and inputs by Every Home for Christ; enhanced food security and increased household incomes for four dioceses in Uganda through social protection support from Caritas with a particular focus on the protection of children and people living with a disability; addressing food insecurity challenges caused by irregular weather patterns by training 1,450 farmers in conservation farming to boost self-sufficiency and resilience in Zimbabwe through Act for Peace; improving food and income security for the three most food insecure districts in Zimbabwe with a particular emphasis on targeted female-headed households through Plan International Australia; and in Ethiopia through Action on Poverty's Improving Food Security and Economic Empowerment project, 7,200 smallholder farmers have increased productivity and sustainable access to locally produced seed and income generation through value chain and business development. Farmers also benefited from improved linkages between private, public and research sectors.<sup>24</sup>


Australia is also contributing to improved agricultural productivity through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), which provided \$16 million to fund 17 new and ongoing projects in Eastern and Southern Africa in 2015-16 in three focus areas including crops, livestock and natural resource management. The Sustainable Intensification of Maize-Legume Systems in Eastern and Southern Africa (SIMLESA), the largest of these projects, is on track to reach 650,000 farmers by 2018. ACIAR projects contributed to significant outcomes in 2015-16 in these focus areas including: the uptake of soil and water monitoring tools developed by CSIRO, which has seen farming communities reduce water use and improve profitability of crops in irrigation schemes; agroforestry projects have enhanced the number of trees in integrated farming systems, which over time helps farmers' ability to cope with

---

<sup>23</sup> Collectively, AACES activities impacted more than 2.3 million women and marginalised people across the 11 countries. <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/aaces-program-review-2011-2016.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Refer ANCP 2014-15 Aid Program Performance Report (APPR); Development Aid at a glance (2015), Statistics by Region – Africa





challenging droughts including by allowing them to sell firewood and other tree products to buy food; and improved production of chickens through better vaccine delivery through research in Southern Africa.

In addition to these themes, ACIAR supported a robust training program for 15 Plant Biosecurity Fellows from 10 Eastern and Southern African countries, in Australia, to build regional biosecurity capability. The Fellows have trained others in their National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) and have established a community of practice around plant disease protection, surveillance and diagnosis. The collaboration with Australian plant protection organisations also provides an opportunity for Australia to protect its borders against plants and diseases endemic to Eastern and Southern Africa.

During 2015-16, Australia continued its support for AgResults – a multi-donor (Australia, Canada, US, UK, Gates) initiative exploring innovative, results-focused methods of harnessing private sector innovations in food security and nutrition in developing countries. AgResults has established six pilot projects in Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria and Uganda. A pilot in Kenya to address post-harvest grain loss of up to 30 per cent using market incentives to develop and distribute affordable pest proof storage units for more than 500,000 farmers is already catalysing smallholder demand in and beyond Kenya. In addition, across Africa, aflatoxin is toxic and sometimes even deadly to animals and humans. Aflasafe is a maize growing process that prevents infection of maize by toxic aspergillus fungi causing aflatoxin which can lead to liver failure and death in livestock and humans. In Nigeria, data is collected on the aflasafe adoption rates among female headed households as well as knowledge and awareness of aflasafe amongst wives of farmers. The AgResults pilots in Sub-Saharan Africa all have specific gender objectives built into the design and all data, including the baseline, is gender disaggregated.


**OBJECTIVE 3: Respond appropriately to humanitarian crises in Africa through working with effective humanitarian partners and supporting advocacy efforts for effective international humanitarian action.**

In 2015, Australia's humanitarian assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa focused on South Sudan and Somalia. Our investments in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR) also carried over into this period. Our humanitarian partners continued to demonstrate their effectiveness and made progress in several areas identified as requiring improvement last year. With the consolidation of targeted countries, partners and disbursements, the program moved toward greater funding predictability and improving our performance as a good humanitarian donor. The humanitarian performance benchmarks for 2015 were also exceeded, with life-saving assistance provided to an estimated 731,000 vulnerable men and women. Performance against this objective is therefore rated as green.

Australia's humanitarian support to South Sudan in 2015 was delivered through the South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Our \$10 million investment for this reporting period continued to save lives, alleviate suffering, protect the rights of the most vulnerable and improve self-reliance and coping strategies of people most in need. The CHF played an important role in enabling humanitarian action, providing flexible and prioritised resources.

The CHF provided lifesaving support for 1.8 million people (Australia's proportion of this was 133,200 people). Notable results included exceeding its health activities target by 100,000 people. The Fund's protection activities assisted 635,000 vulnerable men, women and children including Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs), host communities and people in counties with a high level of civilian casualties. It also assisted over 1 million people in and outside of protection of civilian sites with improved living conditions and delivery of services.

DFAT's confidence in the humanitarian impact of our investment in the CHF was strengthened by a monitoring visit to South Sudan in April 2016. DFAT observed that the CHF has a thorough approach to M&E and is gender mainstreaming in all funded activities. OCHA also engaged a Gender Adviser, however, DFAT is yet to see reporting which captures the outcomes of this investment. For this reason, Australia's contribution through the CHF was rated 'adequate' for gender in this year's aid quality reporting period.



Australia's humanitarian support in Somalia in 2015 included allocations to the Somalia CHF, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP).


In 2015, Australia allocated \$5 million to the Somalia CHF, which continued to make an impact on the lives of the most vulnerable people in Somalia. Focusing on lifesaving interventions for people facing 'crisis' and 'emergency' food insecurity and support to common services for the overall humanitarian response in Somalia, the CHF provided lifesaving support to over 520,000 people (Australia's share was 52,174). The Fund's key achievements included support to 271,000 people to improve access to food and protection of livelihoods via cash transfers, health treatment for 161,000 children and nursing mothers, and vaccinations for 115,000 children and women of child-bearing age. The program improved medical services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), trained community leaders on prevention of GBV and distributed solar torches to IDPs in Mogadishu to improve women's safe movement at night. The volatile security situation presents the main challenges for gender and protection activities in Somalia. Increased military operations, inter-clan violence and lack of access to those in need are causing delays in implementation and increasing the number of people at risk of violence and sexual assault.

Australia's humanitarian support (\$2 million) through SomReP in 2015 has assisted over 10,000 vulnerable men, women and children (50:50 female and male). SomReP improved resilience of individuals and communities by addressing the long-standing recurrent cycle of vulnerability and suffering. Specifically, beneficiaries registered shorter recovery time from shocks, a reduction in household expenditure, increased food consumption scores and a reduction in debt burden. In 2015, timely and well-targeted preparedness interventions significantly reduced the impacts of El Niño-related flooding in southern Somalia. Good progress was also made on engaging with the Federal Government of Somalia's National Development Plan following SomReP's MTR, including building institutional capacity required to strengthen resilience. The 'consortium model'—in which seven INGOs jointly manage the program—has allowed the program to draw on the comparative strengths of each.

SomReP is largely meeting DFAT's expectations relative to activity outputs. Better outcomes-based reporting and improved data collection to demonstrate attribution are required, although the challenges of collecting quality data in Somalia are significant. SomReP has prioritised women and female-headed households as beneficiaries. Next year DFAT will advocate for further gender analysis and further work on protection. Greater availability of evidence influenced higher ratings for effectiveness, gender, risk, connectedness and protection in 2015-16.

In 2015 Australia contributed \$2 million in bilateral support to the ICRC Emergency Appeal for Somalia. The Appeal focused on providing emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict and the impact of terrorist activities. The Appeal ran extensive first-aid, medical and basic health programs and supported projects to restore livelihoods in communities weakened by the crisis. The program reached 1.5 million people (Australia's proportion was 37,094). ICRC provided briefing to donors in-country, boosting confidence in the accuracy of their reporting. ICRC, in partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society, operates a network of static and mobile clinics and hospitals across Somalia, most of which refer sexual violence victims to Red Cross hospitals in Mogadishu and Kismayo. Post will seek reporting on the impact of these interventions and continue to advocate for regular information sharing.

Australia's bilateral support to the humanitarian crises in DRC (\$3 million) and CAR (\$2 million), via the ICRC in 2015 has provided lifesaving, emergency support to 97,000 people suffering from the impacts of ongoing conflict and instability. Australia's investments supported conflict-affected IDPs and residents, providing medical care to the wounded and sick, psychological support, reunited separated families, helped restore livelihoods and rehabilitated water and sanitation facilities. These investments delivered strong protection results including, in DRC, assistance to almost 3,000 victims of sexual abuse and 1,000 suffering from conflict-related trauma, reuniting with their families over 700 children associated with armed forces and providing medical treatment to over 1,000 people. The DRC program has an emphasis on addressing sexual



and gender based violence. An example from this reporting period includes an awareness raising campaign reaching 80,000 people, aimed at reducing the stigmatisation of sexual abuse.

In 2015, \$29 million of Australia's multilateral regular contribution (core funding) to the World Food Programme (WFP) was allocated to African countries. In DRC, Ethiopia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe this funding supported over 335,000 people delivering food to victims of war, civil conflict and natural disaster, and helping communities rebuild shattered lives. Australia also provided \$5 million of emergency funding to the WFP for its operations under the South Sudan Regional Refugee Response plan (SSRRRP), delivering food aid to 57,000 refugees in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. Australia also supported the SSRRRP with an allocation to UNHCR that ran across 2014 and into 2015, reaching 9,500 people.

#### **OBJECTIVE 4: Empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcomes.**

Performance against this objective is rated as amber given strong but inconsistent results against key performance indicators. During 2015-16 DFAT's Sub-Saharan African Aid Program made considerable progress in promoting women's empowerment and gender equality across investments. A new Sub-Saharan African Gender Action Plan (GAP) was introduced to support implementation of the Government's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy, along with the development of 12 month GAP implementation plans at each of our seven Sub-Saharan African posts. The plans place the program in a strong position to report positive results across development, foreign policy and trade objectives in future. Posts will report progress against these plans annually.

Australia Awards is ensuring gender equality remains central to the program through: a dedicated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy which requires gender equality considerations to be integral to all stages of the program and its objectives; a revised M&E framework which strengthens how the program tracks progress against gender equality outcomes; and ongoing external and internal support from gender equality advisers.

Enhancing social inclusion and gender equality has been key to the success of AACES's contribution to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa. Australia's support through AACES has directly benefited 1,491,231 women and girls: an estimated 479,413 people accessed maternal and child health services; approximately 817,933 people experienced improved agricultural productivity; and over 1,074,813 people were provided with water and sanitation services. The AACES MTR (2014-15) noted that AACES is "raising the bar" by encouraging projects not only to ensure they directly involve and benefit women, but also to address underlying power issues that perpetuate marginalisation and inequality.

All AACES partners put women at the centre of their programs in both representation and participation. CARE Malawi, with their strong experience in gender equality programing, is a good example. Their skills were so highly recognised that they trained frontline staff from the other Malawi AACES partners in gender equality and gender-based violence, using their Male Champion Model. The model was adapted by the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), leading to increased male involvement in gender-based violence reduction within CADECOM programs.<sup>25</sup> In addition, the considerable learning and experience generated through the AACES work on gender inclusion and women's empowerment has in turn has been utilised for wider influence in partner programming.<sup>26</sup>

Australia's support through ANCP during 2015-16 also contributed to the advancement of gender equality and women's economic empowerment in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2015-16, Australia funded 18 ANCP projects in Sub-Saharan Africa which had gender equality as a principal objective. Australia's funding through these projects has: improved the quality of life of poor women with disabilities in Nigeria through the formation of self-help groups through CBM's Advocacy for Women with Disabilities Initiative; improved

<sup>25</sup> AACES 2014-15 Annual Report, p53

<sup>26</sup> <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/aaces-program-review-2011-2016.pdf>, p45



maternal and child health outcomes by encouraging greater uptake of health services among 1,200 mothers and babies at targeted health clinics in Zimbabwe through the Burnett Institute; improved quality early childhood care and development through support by Plan International Australia in Uganda and Ethiopia for parents and caregivers to acquire the skills, knowledge and capacity to fulfil their children's rights to survival, protection, participation and development; improved communities understanding of their right to free, prior, informed consent and support for women's voices and participation in decision making processes including their ability to engage with decision-makers on land, natural resources, and livelihoods issues in Southern Africa through Oxfam; and strengthened the livelihoods of refugee survivors of sexual or gender based violence in Ethiopia by empowering them through provision of counselling, emergency support and increased incomes through vocational training and seed funding through Act for Peace.

The Sub-Saharan African aid program also committed a number of performance benchmarks in its Aid Investment Plan 2015-19 (AIP) to ensure that gender equality is a key consideration in its aid programming. The AIP was finalised in late August 2015 and efforts to implement are at an early stage. In the 2015-16 aid quality reporting period, 73 per cent (11 out of the 15) investments were rated as satisfactory or above (this is slightly below the 80%). Two investments rated as unsatisfactory for gender equality in 2014-15 maintained this rating in 2015-16 (AECF and the Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund) despite advocacy on the importance of strengthening gender equality in these investments from our Posts.


Two additional investments rated as unsatisfactory for gender equality for the first time in 2015-16: SLEEK, mainly due to stricter quality assessments; and the SWASSA Regional Water and Sanitation program with the World Bank, which suffered from limited oversight due to staff resourcing constraints. One investment, AFSI, increased its rating from unsatisfactory in 2014-15 to adequate in 2015-16 due to concerted efforts made by CSIRO and program managers. The performance benchmark that *all investments collect, analyse and report sex disaggregated data and have a strategy, informed by gender analysis, to improve gender equality outcomes*, was largely, although not entirely met by all investments in 2015-16. These are areas which program managers will continue to advocate for in 2016-17. Australia met its performance benchmark that 45 per cent of scholarships be allocated to women in 2015-16 through our Australia Awards Program to Africa, with 46 per cent.

## PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

The only program wide performance benchmark for the Sub-Saharan African Aid program in 2015-16 was that 80 per cent of *the allocation of funding across Sub-Saharan Africa will be focused in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa*. This benchmark was achieved from a bilateral perspective, mainly through the allocation of our Awards program to Southern and Eastern Africa.

Table 4 Performance Benchmarks 2016-17 to 2018-19

Aid Objective	Performance Benchmark	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Sub-Saharan Africa regional	Allocation of funding across Sub-Saharan Africa will be focused in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa	90%	90%	90%
<b>Objective 1: Leadership and human capacity development</b>	Australia Awards investment works towards achieving gender parity in its allocation of scholarships	50% of scholarships allocated to women	50% of scholarships allocated to women	50% of scholarships allocated to women
	Proportion of alumni using award-acquired skills and knowledge to	90%	90%	90%



Aid Objective	Performance Benchmark	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	contribute to development outcomes			
Objective 2: Agricultural Productivity	No. of poor women and men who increase their incomes	744,000	812,200	883,500
	No. of poor women and men who increase their access to financial services	744,000	812,200	883,500
Objective 3: Humanitarian Assistance	No. of vulnerable people provided with lifesaving assistance in conflict and crisis situations	670,000*	670,000*	670,000*
<b>Objective 4: Empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcome</b>	Investments having a satisfactory or above score for gender equality (overall rating as well as for all sub-questions)	82.5%	85%	90%
	All investments collect, analyse and report sex-disaggregated data and have a strategy, informed by gender analysis, to improve gender equality outcomes.	All investments	All investments	All investments


\* This performance benchmark is subject to funding consistent with previous financial year allocations.

## MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The African Aid Program is different to other bilateral aid programs which have formal agreements in place with national governments. Instead, it has several (mostly informal) mutual obligations at multiple levels of government including regional, national, local and provincial government levels. Australia also has a small number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with some bilateral governments with aid agendas including South Africa and Ethiopia as well as regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This section therefore reports progress against a select number of regional and bilateral commitments which we work under to guide our development assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa. As Australia's flagship program to the region, our Australia Awards program to Africa works closely with relevant African Government ministries and associated coordinating authorities to ensure maximum effectiveness of our Awards program. Engagement with these stakeholders helps to ensure awareness and support for Australia Awards program objectives including promotion of the program, engagement in post-award and alumni activities and the use of skills and knowledge within workplaces upon completion of studies. Australia continues to support the African-led Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and align its agricultural programs with CAADP objectives, which have been endorsed by African leaders across the continent. Australia also works to advance the interests of the region through its active engagement in the African Union, including through its engagement via AMDC.

Australia's relationships with partner governments such as Kenya, through programs such as SLEEK and HSNP have remained strong in 2015-16 and reinforced Australia's reputation as a credible and highly sought after partner in the agriculture, innovation and social protection sectors. Australia's support to HSNP has been successfully managed through a delegated cooperation arrangement with DFID which has worked well and suited DFAT's needs.

Australia also works closely with other key donors in the region, including the United Kingdom, European Union, the United States, UN agencies, Canada and other European donors to oversee implementation,



monitoring and evaluation of jointly funded investments in the region. These include: our contributions to AECF, AMDC, HSNP, the Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund (ZimFund), the UNICEF Small Towns Water and Sanitation Program in Zimbabwe. Australia's relationships with these donors are crucial given our relatively small presence in the region.

## PROGRAM QUALITY AND PARTNER PERFORMANCE

The Program has used annual aid program performance reporting from 2014-15 to engage in policy dialogue with managing contractors and other donors who fund investments Australia supports to influence discussions around the effectiveness and efficiency of investments. Four evaluations were conducted during the 2015-16 reporting period (Annex C). Only one of these was for a solely DFAT funded program (AACES) which was also the one publication published to the DFAT website within the 2015-16 reporting period. The lack of timely publishing has been influenced by resourcing and turnover at DFAT Posts and will be addressed prior to the end of 2016.

The aid program is developing a Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) to assist tracking the results of programs Australia supports, in key areas of strategic interest, as outlined in the Sub-Saharan African AIP 2015-19. The PAF is expected to be finalised in the last quarter of 2016 and reported against in the 2016-17 APPR. Following the commencement of the next phase in April 2016, the Australia Awards program to Africa is also undergoing a substantial review of its M&E system and program logic to strengthen information captured at the outcomes level and capacity to strengthen the effectiveness of programming.

Over 2015-16, Australia Awards addressed almost all recommendations from the 2014-15 Aid Quality Check, including monitoring and evaluation improvements; more diversified and participatory short course selection panels; strengthened alumni engagement; analysis of award incompleteness; engagement on social inclusion with coordinating authorities; and improved coordination and communication between DFAT and Palladium. Australia Awards is working on implementing outstanding recommendations including barriers to participation for indigenous people, mapping other donor scholarships engagement/opportunities for collaboration and piloting local co-funding arrangements to improve sustainability.

## ANALYSIS OF AID QUALITY CHECKS (AQCS)

Africa's aid program continued to be affected by a consolidation of the aid program during 2015-16 with a one third reduction in the total number of investments (14 investments) when compared with 2014-15 (21 investments). This reduction mainly affected Australia's support in the WASH and health sectors. All investments impacted by the budget reductions needed to implement adjustment strategies to accommodate changes in resourcing (whether through expenditure, staffing or timing). In many cases, this had a noticeable effect on efficiency and sustainability ratings, in particular.

Taking this reduction into consideration, most investments performed similarly to 2014-15 on effectiveness, with 11 rated as performing satisfactorily. Effectiveness was rated 'at risk' for three investments in 2015-16, predominately due to a lack of available evidence or a challenging operating context. Two of the programs will end by December 2016 and no remedial action will be taken. A higher level of risk is accepted for the Zimbabwe window of AECF, which will be closely monitored in 2016.

Investments performed similarly in 2015-16 to 2014-15 on efficiency, with nine rated as performing satisfactorily. Five were considered at risk, predominately due to delays in resourcing and implementation, or indications that program planning and operational improvements are required.

Investments performed similarly as in 2014-15 against M&E criteria, with a slight decrease in the proportion of investments scoring unsatisfactory and satisfactory in 2015-16. This is a good result given more stringent assessment of M&E was undertaken in 2016 AQCs and there was evidence that many investments had implemented recommendations from the previous year. SLEEK was the only investment rated as unsatisfactory as there was insufficient evidence that the M&E system adequately captures





progress against development outcomes.

Gender equality ratings were similar in 2015-16 as 2014-15, with 16 investments assessed as performing satisfactorily in 2014-15 compared with 10 assessed as satisfactory or above in 2015-16. Four investments were rated as unsatisfactory in 2015-16 compared with five in 2014-15. This was due to DFAT's support for the Ethiopia HSDP IV investment ceasing in 2015. DFAT's gender specialists are working closely with the managers of those investments to explore further opportunities for strengthening the ratings. DFAT has also engaged technical advisory support to assist with improving the incorporation of gender equality considerations into the Zimbabwe window of the AECF investment.

## PERFORMANCE OF KEY DELIVERY PARTNERS

The current phase of Australia's flagship program to Africa, Australia Awards, was delivered through the managing contractor, Palladium during 2015-16. Palladium performed strongly over this period, responding well to budget reductions and the required reprioritisation and reallocation of funds for the program. It met DFAT's requirements in a cost effective, efficient and responsive manner, delivering quality outcomes on time. Palladium has also initiated improvements to the new phase (2016-20) of the program's M&E framework. These changes will lead to improved tracking of results against development, economic and public diplomacy outcomes.

Cardno Emerging Markets Ltd also continued to perform effectively in managing the end-cycle of AAPF and the transition to managing one remaining program, IS4D. This was managed seamlessly without compromising on any aspect of the AAPF's operations. Cardno has established an efficiently run facility with robust processes that has scaled up and down at DFAT's request.

Australia's delegated cooperation arrangement with DFID on HSNP continued to be beneficial to DFAT during 2015-16, particularly given DFAT's limited resources to engage at Post. DFAT was happy with DFID's management of DFAT's funds and its overall strategic engagement in, and oversight of, the program.

Although resource intensive for DFAT, Australia's engagement on SLEEK via DoEE with the Kenya Government has been positive – building the capacity of the Kenyan Government and demonstrating Australia's considerable expertise in climate related land management. CSIRO's and ACIAR's engagement with key research institutes throughout Africa has also boosted Australia's reputation as a world leader in agricultural innovations.

Australia's partnerships with Australian NGOs including through AACES and ANCP during 2015-16 have continued to provide excellent engagement opportunities for the Australian Government in key sectors with African communities. Results achieved by these organisations have been nothing short of impressive. While the bulk of AACES activities came to an end in June 2016, Australia values the ongoing engagement and development impact Australian NGOs will continue to have on African communities through its support for ANCP projects throughout Africa.

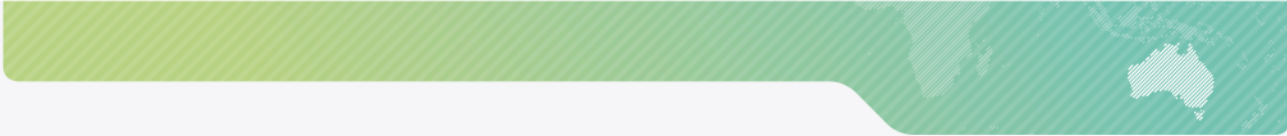
Australia also continued to work closely with key UN agencies such as OCHA, WFP as well as the ICRC and international NGOs during 2015-16 to provide life-saving emergency assistance to South Sudan, Somalia and the DRC. While progress against objectives has been strong, especially considering the various challenges faced by humanitarian agencies working in these countries, Australia has expressed the need for improvement in the collection of outcomes related data to further validate the effectiveness of programs. DFAT will use the forthcoming annual high-level consultations with OCHA, WFP and ICRC to emphasise this point and other priorities such as gender equality, protection, accountability and disability inclusion outlined in the Humanitarian Strategy. A similar opportunity will be presented in the forthcoming renegotiation of DFAT's multilateral agreement with OCHA.

A total of 20 Partner Performance Agreements (PPAs) were conducted in 2015-16. Of these, 14 were for NGOs, four were for multilaterals and two were for commercial suppliers.

## RISKS

Table 5 Management of Key Risks to Achieving Objectives

Key risks	What actions were taken to manage the risks over the past year?	What further actions will be taken to manage the risks in the coming year?	Risk Rating
Political instability in fragile states	Ongoing monitoring and close surveillance through our Posts and partners	Ongoing monitoring and close surveillance through our Posts and partners	High
Poor performance reporting from managing contractors, esp. Australia's flagship program, Australia Awards.	Ongoing monitoring and feedback through regular communications around expectations and risk management.	As per last year, as well as convening of the Program Management Group twice yearly, the peak governance body for the program.	Medium
Changes in political and economic policy in places where we have legacy programming	Frequent communication and revision of Posts' risk management related to these factors.	Frequent communication and revision of Posts' risk management related to these factors.	Medium – High (depending on country context)
Limited resourcing at Posts and therefore oversight of programs.	Ongoing engagement by Canberra of aid programs to help buffer information and resourcing gaps to ensure program continuity.	Ongoing engagement by Canberra of aid programs to help buffer information and resourcing gaps to ensure program continuity; institution of regional focal points for Australia Awards, gender and disability; renewed emphasis on training for A-based and locally engaged staff on aid issues.	Medium
Reputational risk due to high reliance on a small number of implementing partners: the bilateral Africa program has one investment (Australia Awards) receiving ongoing funding. There is a high reliance on the performance of legacy co-funded investments and delegation cooperation agreements.	Regular communications with and updates from key partners and other donors on progress of investments Australia contributes.	Regular communication with key partners and other donors on progress of investments Australia contributes; stronger engagement and information on global programs will be sought.	Low
Reduced funding footprint in Africa may make it difficult to implement a credible aid program and maintain Australia's credibility and strategic input with partners	Posts continue to ensure partnerships are maintained despite a reduced presence and continue to engage in key forums to maintain presence and reputation as a valued contributor to development discussion and expertise.	Continued and ongoing strategic engagement in key forums and sectors where Australia's interests are focused.	Medium
New or intensified humanitarian crises derailing	Close monitoring of potential crises and liaison with key	Continued monitoring, reporting of potential humanitarian hot	Medium



Key risks	What actions were taken to manage the risks over the past year?	What further actions will be taken to manage the risks in the coming year?	Risk Rating
the progress of existing programs.	partners on contingency planning.	spots and liaison with key partners on risks and contingency planning.	

## MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Adequate progress was made against management responses identified in the 2014-15 Sub-Saharan African APPR, with five of the eight management responses being achieved and the remaining three being partly achieved. The program has identified the following management responses for 2015-16:

- The M&E framework for Australia's flagship program to Africa, Australia Awards, will continue to be reviewed and improved, to ensure strengthened outcomes reporting against development, economic and public diplomacy objectives.
- The Africa Aid Program will make concerted efforts to ensure the timely (within two months of finalisation) publication of its evaluations; quarterly meetings will report progress to management.
- The program will continue its efforts to ensure all of its investments have a gender equality strategy informed by sound gender analysis. Particular attention will be given to Australia Awards, ensuring sufficient attention is given to tracking the program's impact on gender equality. The Program will report and share lessons on implementation of its gender action plans. Where significant issues around addressing gender equality are identified in our programs, we will endeavour to engage appropriate expertise to influence outcomes.
- We will continue to actively engage with our humanitarian partners, including through monitoring visits and advocate for better quality, outcomes focused reporting. We will review the appropriateness of existing performance benchmarks with the view to strengthen these by adding useful qualitative indicators.
- Improve the targeting, number of participants and support provided to people living with a disability who participant in the Australia Awards program. More broadly, improve our investments' overall consideration of disability issues and wherever possible, seek to collect disability disaggregated data to better inform our programming.
- The program will finalise and make use of a fit-for-purpose Performance Assessment Framework to better track and report the outcomes of our investments.

See **Annex A** to see progress against 2014-15 management responses.



## ANNEX A - PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING MANAGEMENT RESPONSES

Management responses identified in 2014-15 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2015-16
A tighter alignment of our development assistance in the human capacity building, agriculture, humanitarian and gender equality sectors with our trade, investment and foreign policy objectives.	Achieved	The aid program is aligned to the AIP objectives. Australia Awards makes specific efforts to link the program's development objectives and activities with Posts' broader economic diplomacy and foreign policy interests, including through use of 'country profiles'. Alumni with relevant sectoral expertise at times provide advice to DFAT's posts on areas of joint foreign policy and economic interests. The GAP and Posts' implementation plans are aligned with Australia's broader objectives.
Ensuring women's rights, gender equality and women's economic empowerment are more effectively integrated and promoted as a cornerstone of our aid program.	Partly Achieved	Partly Achieved. We met our Awards gender equality target and developed a Gender Action Plan (GAP) but still have some work to do on ensuring all of our aid programming is informed by gender analysis.
Ensuring independent evaluations and management responses are finalised and published in a timely manner.	Partly Achieved	In 2015-16, there were four evaluations. Only one (AACES final review) was published to the DFAT website in this reporting period.
Continued monitoring of legacy investments in areas outside the scope of the new Sub-Saharan Africa AIP to ensure development results and impacts are realised.	Achieved	This has been achieved as per our annual Investment Quality Reporting process.
Continued engagement with key Whole of Government partners (such as CSIRO, ACIAR and DoEE) to enhance capacities for capturing development results.	Partly achieved	DFAT has continued to emphasise the importance of capturing development results in its engagement with Whole of Government partners

Working closely with our humanitarian partners (such as the UN, WFP and ICRC) and DFAT's humanitarian colleagues to strengthen reporting on Australia's humanitarian assistance in Somalia and South Sudan to enable greater tracking of our humanitarian results.

Achieved

DFAT maintains strong bilateral relationships with humanitarian implementing partners and continue to work to improve quality of reporting. A recent field visit to collect data and meet with implementing partners in South Sudan provided staff with a strong sense of results being achieved and the challenges of operating in this environment. Due to security constraints, field visits to humanitarian sites in Somalia have not been possible. Improved reporting has been received from all key partners (CHF, SomRep, ICRC) during 2015.

Working closely with implementing partners to ensure appropriate exit strategies from those programs which will discontinue in 2015-16, to support program sustainability and ongoing results.

Achieved

DFAT staff at key posts have notified program managers and other donors early of the impending completion of their program support while seeking ways to remain engaged in policy discussions. Feedback from program managers of investments at posts has been positive.

Develop a fit for purpose Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) which will enhance the Africa Aid Program's ability to comment on results against expected targets

Partly Achieved

This has been developed and is in the process of being finalised with Posts.

Note:

- Achieved. Significant progress has been made in addressing the issue
- Partly achieved. Some progress has been made in addressing the issue, but the issue has not been resolved
- Not achieved. Progress in addressing the issue has been significantly below expectations

## ANNEX B - PROGRESS TOWARDS PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS IN 2015-16

Aid objective	2014-15 benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2015-16
Overall Program Objective	80% allocation of funding across Sub-Saharan Africa will be focussed in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.	Achieved	The program's regional and global flows to Africa in 2015-16 exceeded this year's benchmark – coming in at around 85% being in Eastern and Southern Africa. 79% of centrally funded scholarships, 85% of ANCP and 100% Of volunteer funds go to Southern and Eastern Africa.
Building Human Capacity	Australia Awards investment work towards achieving gender parity in its allocation of scholarships – 45% of scholarships allocated to women	Achieved	The program met this benchmark with 46 per cent of Awards going to women in 2015.
	Proportion of alumni using award-acquired skills and knowledge to contribute to development outcomes – 90%	Achieved	The program met this benchmark, with 98 per cent of Alumni Surveyed as part of the 2015 Outcomes Study saying they were using their Awards skills and knowledge to contribute to development outcomes.
Agricultural Productivity	No. of poor women and men who increase their incomes – 620,000	Achieved	Achieved and exceeded (as per AECF figures provided).
	No. of poor women and men who increase their access to financial services – 620,000	Partly achieved	This target was only partly achieved with 120,435 people (24,087 net households) receiving increased access to financial services in 2015 through Australia's contribution to the Zimbabwe window of AECF. Australia's support through HSNP also contributed IBLI sales exceeding the 3,000 policy target in 2015 and over 6,000 households insured by February 2016.
Humanitarian Assistance	No. of vulnerable people provided with life saving assistance in conflict and crisis situations – 670,000.	Achieved	The program exceeded its benchmark of reaching 670,000 people, reaching a total of over 730,000 people.

Aid objective	2014-15 benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2015-16
Empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcomes	80% of investments having a satisfactory or above score for gender equality (overall rating as well as for all sub-questions)	Partly Achieved	73% of Sub-Saharan African aid investments were rated as satisfactory or above for gender equality through this year's aid quality assessments. While efforts were made to enhance gender equality outcomes by program managers, this score remained the same this year as in 2014-15.
	All investments collect, analyse and report sex-disaggregated data and have a strategy, informed by gender analysis, to improve gender equality outcomes.	Partly achieved	There was mixed performance against this objective. While all investments collect, analyse and report sex disaggregated data, not all were informed by a gender equality strategy which has been informed by gender analysis to improve gender equality outcomes during 2015-16. For example, SWASSA Regional Water and Sanitation – AWF and WSP, SLEEK and the Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund do not have a gender equality strategy informed by gender analysis used to influence and guide gender equality outcomes and this is only now being properly developed for AECF and the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF).

**Note:**

- Achieved. Significant progress has been made and the performance benchmark was achieved
- Partly achieved. Some progress has been made towards achieving the performance benchmark, but progress was less than anticipated.
- Not achieved. Progress towards the performance benchmark has been significantly below expectations



## ANNEX C – COMPLETED EVALUATIONS IN 2015-16

List of evaluations completed in the reporting period

Investment number & name	Evaluation title	Date completed	Date Evaluation report uploaded into AidWorks	Date Mgt response uploaded into AidWorks	Published on website
INI879 African Enterprise Challenge Fund	Partner-led evaluation	Dec 2015	Pending	Pending	Not yet
INK531 System for land based emissions Estimation in Kenya	Partner-led mid-term review	Dec 2015	Pending	Pending	Not yet
INL378 Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP)	Partner-led progress review.	June 2016	June 2016	NA (not required)	Not yet
INJ318 Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES)	Independent Completion Review	April 2016	April 2016	April 2016	April 2016

List of program prioritised evaluations planned for the next 12 months

Investment number & name	Evaluation title	Date – planned commencement	Date – planned completion	Purpose of evaluation	Evaluation type
INJ018 Australia Africa Partnerships Facility	Independent Evaluation of the Infrastructure Skills for Development (IS4D) Program	1 August 2016	31 October 2016	To assess the success of the investment in achieving its objectives to assist in promoting the model to NEPAD and SADC	Independent
INJ532 Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund (WASH)	Independent completion review led by AfDB	September 2016	October 2016	To assess success of the investment in achieving its objectives	Independent Completion Review

## ANNEX D - AID QUALITY CHECK RATINGS

AQC investment performance over the previous 12 months and where available last year's AQC ratings are included.

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	M&E	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
INI978 Australia Awards in Africa	\$21m 2012-17	2016 AQC	5	4	5	4	3	4	5
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
INL016 M4D: Africa - African Minerals Development Centre	\$5m 2013-16	2016 AQC	6	4	3	4	4	4	5
		2015 AQC	6	4	4	4	4	4	5
INI879 Zimbabwe Food Security - AECF Zimbabwe Window	\$30m 2009-2019	2016 AQC	4	3	4	4	3	3	5
		2015 AQC	5	4	4	4	3	3	5
INJ177 Support for democratic reform in Zimbabwe	\$4.38m 2010-2016	2016 AQC	5	3	3	4	4	4	4
		2015 AQC	5	4	3	5	4	4	4
INJ532 Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund	\$20.4m 2010-2017	2016 AQC	5	4	3	4	4	4	4
		2015 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	3	5
INK922 Small Towns Water Sanitation and Hygiene Program	\$28.94m 2013-2017	2016 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	5	5
		2015 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	4	5
INK531 - Active - Clinton Climate Initiative	\$13m 2012-2017	2016 AQC	5	4	3	3	3	3	4
		2015 AQC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
INJ211 Improving Agricultural Productivity in Africa (P1)	\$42.8 2010-2017	2016 AQC	5	4	4	3	3	4	4
		2015 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	3	4

## HAQC RATINGS

Humanitarian response AQC's assess performance over the previous 12 months (ratings are not compared to previous years).

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	M&E	Connectedness	Protection	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
INL378 SomRep	\$4.5m 2015-16	5	5	4	4	5	4	3	5
INL583 DRC Humanitarian Assistance 2015-16	\$3m 2015-16	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4
INL843 South Sudan	\$7.5m 2015-16	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5

## FAQC RATINGS

Final AQC's assess performance over the lifetime of the investment (ratings are not compared to previous years).

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Overall rating	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	M&E	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
INJ318 AACES	\$83m 2010-16	6	6	5	6	5	6	5	6
INK050 Kenya Food Security Community Resilience	\$24.75m 2011-16	5	6	5	4	5	5	4	5
INJ144 SWaSSA: Regional Water and Sanitation - AWF and WSP	2009-2015 \$18.15m	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas. 5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas. 1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.

## ANNEX E – PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

In Progress