



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Direct Aid Program Annual Overview

2014–15



Direct Aid Program Annual Overview 2014–15

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is a small grants program funded from Australia's aid budget. It has the flexibility to work with local communities in developing countries on projects that reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development consistent with Australia's national interest. It sits alongside Australia's longer-term country and multilateral development strategies and with its wide geographical reach, plays an important role in supporting local community efforts towards poverty reduction.

The Direct Aid Program provided \$22 million in Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding in 2014–15 to more than 850 projects in more than 130 developing countries. These projects achieved a range of outcomes in fields including humanitarian relief, education, health, food security, gender equality, human rights and capacity building.

Guidelines

The program is founded on a set of principles which:

- advance developmental outcomes in countries eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) through projects primarily focused on practical and tangible results
- support Australia's wider foreign and trade policy interests and public diplomacy objectives, including promoting a distinctive and positive image of Australia, and
- allow for a wide geographic reach reflecting that Australia has global interests and that DAP provides a low cost and effective way to build relationships and maintain Australia's profile.

These principles are underpinned by the DAP guidelines. There is no minimum amount that a single DAP project can receive but the maximum is \$60 000 over the life of the project. Activities can run up to a maximum of two years.

dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/direct-aid-program/Pages/direct-aid-program.aspx

Role of Australian Diplomatic Missions in the Direct Aid Program (DAP)

In 2014–15 the program was administered through 66 Australian embassies and High Commissions and delivered by community groups, non-government organisations, not-for-profit private organisations and individuals. Overseas missions have strategies to guide the selection of projects and ensure practical development results with good value for money.

Who can apply for DAP funding?

Funding is available on a not-for-profit basis to individuals, community groups, NGOs and other entities engaged in development activities in countries that are eligible for ODA. The management of the Direct Aid Program varies from mission to mission. To find out more about how the program is managed in a particular country, please contact the Australian mission overseas that administers DAP in that country (see list below). For Australian mission contact details see:

dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/Pages/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas.aspx.

International Development Fund (IDF)

The International Development Fund (IDF) is a sub-program of the Direct Aid Program and is managed through Australia's permanent missions to the United Nations in New York, in Geneva and in Vienna, and to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. Along with the founding principles of the program, the IDF helps build support for multilateral agendas that Australia wishes to advance. It supports ODA-eligible projects and those that enable developing countries to participate in international meetings.

Who can apply for IDF support?

IDF support is available to UN organisations, community groups, NGOs, the private sector or any other not-for-profit organisation. Please contact one of the four Australian missions overseas that manages the IDF program for further detail. For Australian mission contact details see <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/our-locations/missions/Pages/our-embassies-and-consulates-overseas.aspx>

The table below sets out the Australian diplomatic missions that received DAP or IDF allocations in 2015–16, and the countries in which these posts administer the program.

DAP-eligible countries

Region	Administered Post	Eligible countries / Territories
* The host country does not receive DAP funds		
Africa	Abuja (Nigeria)	Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, The Gambia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Niger, Chad
	Accra (Ghana)	Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
	Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)	Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan
	Cairo (Egypt)	Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, Syria
	Harare (Zimbabwe)	Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Congo (Democratic Republic of)
	Lisbon (Portugal)*	Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe
	Nairobi (Kenya)	Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia
	Madrid (Spain)*	Equatorial Guinea
	Port Louis (Mauritius)	Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles
	Pretoria (South Africa)	Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland
South America Latin America and the Caribbean	Brasilia (Brazil)	Brazil
	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay
	Lima (Peru)	Peru, Bolivia
	Mexico City (Mexico)	Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
	Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)*	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname
South and Central Asia	Santiago de Chile (Chile)	Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela
	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	Maldives, Sri Lanka
	Dhaka (Bangladesh)	Bangladesh
	Islamabad (Pakistan)	Pakistan
	Kabul (Afghanistan)	Afghanistan
	Kathmandu (Nepal)	Nepal
	New Delhi (India)	India, Bhutan
	Mumbai (India)	India
South East Asia	Chennai (India)	India
	Bangkok (Thailand)	Thailand
	Dili (East Timor)	East Timor
	Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)	Vietnam
	Jakarta, Bali (Indonesia)	Indonesia

Region	Administered Post	Eligible countries / Territories
The Pacific	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	Malaysia
	Manila (Philippines)	Philippines
	Phnom Penh (Cambodia)	Cambodia
	Yangon (Myanmar)	Myanmar
	Vientiane (Laos)	Laos
	Apia (Samoa)	Samoa
	Honiara (Solomon Islands)	Solomon Islands
	Nauru (Nauru)	Nauru
	Noumea (New Caledonia)	Wallis and Futuna
	Nuku'alofa (Tonga)	Tonga
	Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia)	Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau
	Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)	Papua New Guinea
	Port Vila (Vanuatu)	Vanuatu
	Suva (Fiji)	Fiji, Tuvalu
Middle East	Tarawa (Kiribati)	Kiribati
	Wellington (NZ)*	Cook Is, Niue
	Amman (Jordan)	Jordan
	Baghdad (Iraq)	Iraq
	Beirut (Lebanon)	Lebanon
	Cairo (Egypt)	Egypt, Syria
	Ramallah (Palestinian Territories)	Palestinian Territories
Europe	Tehran (Iran)	Iran
	Malta*	Tunisia
	Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)*	Yemen
	Ankara (Turkey)	Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey
	Belgrade (Serbia)	Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia
	Canakkale (Turkey)	Turkey
	Rome (Italy)*	Albania
North Asia	Vienna (Austria)*	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo
	Kyiv (Ukraine)	Ukraine
	Beijing (China)	China
	Seoul (Republic of Korea)*	Mongolia

IDF Missions

Region	Administered Post	Eligible countries / Territories
Global/IDF	New York (UN)*	ODA-eligible countries
	Geneva (UN)*	ODA-eligible countries
	Geneva (WTO)*	ODA-eligible countries
	Vienna (UN)*	ODA-eligible countries

Direct Aid Program –Africa

In 2014–15, \$5.67 million was provided to 195 Direct Aid Program projects in Africa through our diplomatic missions in Abuja, Accra, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Harare, Lisbon, Madrid, Nairobi, Port Louis and Pretoria. These projects covered 47 countries.

Abuja

The Australian High Commission in Abuja provided \$796 670 across 24 projects. Twenty one of these projects were in Nigeria, two in Cameroon and one in The Gambia.

Despite having Africa's largest population (approximately 160 million people) and recently being confirmed as Africa's largest economy, Nigeria continues to have severe development problems. Around 60 per cent of the population continue to live on less than \$2 a day.

Ebola affected Nigeria during the second half of 2014 resulting in several deaths and general fear that the epidemic would be as devastating to the country as it had been to its neighbours. One Direct Aid Program project helped raise community awareness of how the disease was transmitted and the importance of improved hygiene standards in managing the disease. It also trained volunteers to identify symptoms of the disease, contain it and trace those who had come into contact with sufferers. As a result of efforts such as these, Ebola was contained relatively quickly in Nigeria.

The Direct Aid Program also supported the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue and helped establish the first ever National Peace Committee in Nigeria which acted as a positive forum for discussion and mediation between political parties in Nigeria's most recent elections. By fostering dialogue the Committee was able to help keep election-related violence to its lowest levels since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999 and produce negotiated solutions to tensions arising from the election results. Three other projects focused on assisting Internally Displaced Persons (of which there are 1.5 million in Nigeria) who were forced to relocate as a result of the Boko Haram conflict in the north-east.

The Direct Aid Program was also able to help improve agricultural practices in Cameroon to combat malnutrition. One project supported the application of a breakthrough cassava processing method, developed at the Australian National University, to remove cyanide from the final product and another helped improve water management in 10 catchments in Buea province allowing sufficient supplies not only for agricultural production but also for household usage.

In The Gambia poverty stricken households were helped to start up community kitchen gardens to supplement their nutritional needs and reduce vulnerability to starvation, a major issue in The Gambia. This was achieved by improving knowledge of soil fertility and through seed exchange programs to make sure the best staple foods could be produced cheaply for communities of the North Bank and Central River Regions.



Source: Nerve Photos

Women are taught to use the 'wetting method' to process cassava. The presence of cyanide in cassava exposes communities in Cameroon to chronic dietary cyanide intoxication which is manifested as konzo and TAN (Tropical Ataxic Neuropathy).

Accra

The Australian High Commission in Accra provided funding totalling \$811 164 across 20 projects in Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Mali and Togo. Health and educational services are basic and under-resourced, especially outside major cities in the region and much of the population lacks access to clean water. Diseases such as cholera, malaria, typhoid, hepatitis, and tuberculosis are widespread and often fatal.

Projects focused on women farmers and market women, low income farming and fishing communities, slum dwellers, and people whose lives have suffered through illegal mining. One project in Ghana funded a program to train local experts to critique occupational health and safety management systems and hazards and provide coaching services to local small and medium enterprises. In Liberia, the Direct Aid Program funded a project to help improve the production and marketing of fresh vegetables, fruits and spices in Liberia. This has great income earning potential for low income households in Liberia, particularly for female-headed households.

Addis Ababa

The Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa provided funds totalling \$378 627 for 10 projects mainly focused on empowering youth. Seven of the projects were funded in Ethiopia and three projects in South Sudan.

Although measures of human development have improved, Ethiopia remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty and food insecurity is concentrated in rural areas. Many rural households are finding it difficult to survive without resorting to seasonal or permanent urban migration in search of wage employment, and support from social safety net programs.

The Direct Aid Program plays an important role in addressing humanitarian hardship in impoverished areas of Ethiopia and South Sudan. Projects focused on supporting schools, strengthening institutions and promoting rural development, protecting children, empowering youth and peacebuilding. One project assisted street boys in Ethiopia to access social support centres so they could return to their communities with skills and education. Another project was able to assist efforts to provide a voice to victims of the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.



Source: Australian High Commission, Accra

Australia supports food production for women by providing them with resources for agriculture extension services in Liberia.

Cairo

The Australian Embassy in Cairo provided \$400 000 for eight projects—six in Egypt and two in Sudan. Egypt is the largest country in the Middle East and has undergone significant political transition since the beginning of the Arab Spring in 2010–11. The humanitarian situation in Sudan continues to deteriorate, predominately due to armed conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, resulting in millions of internally displaced people (IDPs) and food insecurity.

The Direct Aid Program has helped address humanitarian hardship in impoverished areas of both Egypt and Sudan. Projects focused on enhancing medical services for under-privileged communities, welfare improvement for low income communities and street children as well as activities to support refugees in Egypt and IDPs in Sudan. One project provided funds to help local communities to build foster care and adoption networks in Sudan.



Source: Australian Embassy, Cairo
 Consul Erica Tolano and Third Secretary Ashlee Brady recently visited the Shamaa Organisation, a women's refuge in Khartoum, Sudan. The Direct Aid Program provided funding for Hope and Homes for Children which works with local communities to provide support for single mothers and abandoned children.

Harare

The Australian Embassy in Harare provided \$904 322 for 27 projects in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These countries continue to face significant development challenges in health, education, water and sanitation, gender rights and governance.

Projects under the Direct Aid Program focused on vulnerable and marginalised people, including those living with disabilities, women, children, and remote and economically disadvantaged communities. In Zimbabwe, two neighbouring rural high schools, Siyaphambili and Phakama, received funding for e-learning facilities and science lab fittings respectively. Phakama School, which was previously not registered as an A-level school for science subjects, is now able to offer these subjects and students can be taught and examined on practicals. These successful projects prompted the district education office to organise a learning visit for other school heads in the district to show them alternative ways to secure funding to improve educational infrastructure.



Source: Australian Embassy, Harare
 Ambassador Suzanne McCourt and other dignitaries are shown the bed-chairs in the Harare Children's Hospital during the commissioning of the project.

Lisbon

The Australian Embassy in Lisbon provided \$149 585 for 22 projects in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe. DAP funded eight projects on a number of Cabo Verde's nine islands, which vary in their levels of development due to the different availability of resources. Guinea-Bissau has a history of political instability which hampers the country's socio-economic development.

The six DAP projects selected for funding in Guinea-Bissau focused on basic needs, such as access to water, education and food production. Eight projects on the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe covered infrastructure (because of the limited transport links), employment opportunities, health standards and education in rural communities.



Source: Australian Embassy, Lisbon
Donkeys, our friends', Sao Tome and Principe: An unusual project in the small West African island country of São Tomé and Príncipe has not only rescued 15 donkeys from slow and painful deaths from neglect, but has provided training for unemployed youth in animal husbandry and local tourism. Funds from the Direct Aid Program helped the project purchase equestrian and veterinary equipment for 15 donkeys. It included training 16 young people to treat and train the donkeys for tourist activities and agricultural purposes. The project has hosted several visits from schools as part of the students' education.

Madrid

The Australian Embassy in Madrid provided \$25 000 for a project in Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish-speaking nation in Africa. The country has experienced recent rapid economic growth, however growth has not been equitable and poverty remains widespread. The Direct Aid Program provided funding to purchase three ultrasound scanners, five portable vascular Doppler machines and five electronic probes for five pre-natal health centres in Equatorial Guinea.

Nairobi

The Australian High Commission in Nairobi provided \$960 000 for 39 projects in the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia and Burundi. Population growth, conflict, rapid urbanisation and high poverty levels continue to be the chief challenges facing East African countries. In particular east African women face ongoing exclusion from the formal economy, high levels of violence and low representation.

Direct Aid Program projects focused on education and skills development as well as social and economic empowerment of women, people with disabilities and unskilled youth. Projects also enabled electricity to be installed, classrooms, boarding and toilet facilities to be renovated and teaching aids and equipment to be purchased across schools in many rural areas.

One project in Tanzania helped the Nronga Women's Dairy Cooperative Society purchase household biogas systems that use livestock waste to produce cooking gas. The better dairy practices under the project have also increased milk production. Compost from the project dramatically increases farm productivity. This business provides 6000 litres of milk per week to local commercial outlets, a school milk program for six local schools, and is about to join with six other women's cooperatives to expand their business enterprise.



Source: Nronga Women Dairy Cooperative Society
Project funding supported the Nronga Women's Dairy Cooperative Society Biogas project to construct biodigesters in 25 households of the Nronga Cooperative society in Tanzania, and supported flow-on projects which are benefitting the surrounding community .

Port Louis

The Australian High Commission in Port Louis provided \$390 000 for 22 projects in the Indian Ocean Rim countries of Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros. Mauritius has a successful development record, but many challenges remain especially in infrastructure and skilling the workforce. Seychelles is dependent on an economic resurgence in Europe for its tourism industry and remains sensitive to changes in commodity prices. Poverty levels in Madagascar continue to be high. Comoros' economy is heavily dependent on the agricultural sector and poverty remains widespread.

Direct Aid Program projects focused on supporting vulnerable and marginalised people and particularly on strengthening women's economic empowerment, addressing gender-based violence, education and conservation. One project funded a workshop to measure gender-based violence in the Seychelles, and another on training women and girls as part of a mentoring program for women entrepreneurs. A project in Comoros focused on food security including improving food security and revenues for farmers in the remote province of Anjouan.



Before



After

Source: The Madagascar Development Fund
 Maternity facilities for the population of Igararana (Madagascar) were very basic. The midwife had little equipment, and up to 15 babies were delivered each month on a coffin-like wooden box next to a straw-filled sack on the floor used as the newborn babies' bed. The Direct Aid Program provided funds to build, furnish and equip a small but modern health centre where children are vaccinated and women give birth with dignity in clean, hygienic and safe conditions.

Pretoria

The Australian High Commission in Pretoria provided \$858 475 for 25 projects across the southern African countries of South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland and Namibia. The main social and economic factors that shape the southern African countries continue to be high unemployment and critical skills shortages, extremely high rates of HIV/AIDS, gender inequality and significant gaps in social services for people living with disabilities.

Direct Aid Program projects focused on improving the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalised people. This included projects providing disability aids for children and adults, training health professionals in new forms of therapy and health care awareness for both blindness and cancer in rural communities. Other projects provided resources to improve the schooling experience, and improve the skills of students through exposure to science and maths education and computer skills.

The Direct Aid Program also helped the Smile Foundation to provide life changing facial reconstruction and emergency burns surgery for children from disadvantaged backgrounds from the general Gauteng province in South Africa. Overall, 20 children at the Dr George Mukhari Academic Hospital (Ga-Rankuwa, north of Pretoria) and 27 children at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (Soweto, Johannesburg) received treatment.



Source: Smile Foundation
 HE Mr Adam McCarthy, Australian High Commissioner to South Africa observing plastic surgery specialists performing facial reconstructive surgery on an infant.