



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT SUMMARY 2018-19

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA PROGRAM

September 2019



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION 2018-19

SUMMARY

This report summarises the performance of Australia's aid program in Sub-Saharan Africa from July 2018 to June 2019 against the Sub-Saharan Africa Aid Investment Plan (AIP) 2015-2019.¹

Sub-Saharan Africa is a highly diverse region consisting of 49 countries and a total population in 2018 of 1.078 billion². The region continues to face multiple development challenges and major differences exist between individual countries. Aggregate economic growth is expected to increase slightly from 3 per cent in 2018 to 3.5 per cent in 2019, and stabilise at about 5 per cent in the medium term. For the region's more diversified economies, prospects for sustained economic growth are strong; but in the remaining more resource-dependent economies, growth looks weaker and standards of living in these 24 countries are expected to improve much more slowly. These prospects are due to both external and domestic factors, including slower global growth, volatility in global financial conditions and continuing low commodity prices. While the region has witnessed a reduction in conflicts in recent years, some countries continue to be affected, posing significant strains on their economies, major declines in their per capita GDP and loss of human and physical capital.

In this context, Australia's aid program to Sub-Saharan Africa continues to make a small but valuable contribution³ by building human capital and addressing skills shortages, improving agricultural productivity and food security and providing humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflicts and crises. The program also promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls across all its investments. As such, it continues to align closely with the four strategic objectives of the Sub-Saharan Africa AIP 2015-19.

In 2018-19 the program continued to achieve good results against the performance benchmarks identified in the AIP:

Australia Awards – In 2018-19, the Australia Awards program in Sub-Saharan Africa awarded a total of 479 scholarships for postgraduate (masters), short courses and Australia Awards Fellowships across priority sectors to African women and men from 21 countries.

Agriculture – Australian support to programs that focus on agricultural productivity and food security contributed to improving the lives of an estimated 1.9 million poor smallholder farmers.

Humanitarian assistance – Australia continued to provide funding to international and Australian organisations working with vulnerable populations in Somalia and South Sudan, benefitting an estimated 634,478 vulnerable women and men affected by conflict and crisis situations.

Empowering women and girls – All posts have up-to-date Gender Action Plans in place and actively promote and support gender equality in their Australia Awards-Africa programs, through the Direct Aid Program (DAP) and public diplomacy activities. Assistance to humanitarian programs targets vulnerable women and girls, and some agriculture programs are aimed specifically at women's economic empowerment. Across all Australia Awards programs, an average of 47 per cent of scholarships were awarded to women in 2018, close to the 50 per cent target.

Australian Government funding to accredited non-government organisations (NGOs) through the Australia-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) continued to make a substantial contribution to development in Sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated 12.8 million people benefitted from the work of 28 Australian NGOs in 2018-19. The ANCP provided approximately \$20 million to support these NGOs working in countries across Africa,

¹ <https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Pages/aid-investment-plan-aip-sub-saharan-africa-2015-16-to-2018-19.aspx>

² <https://data.worldbank.org/region/sub-saharan-africa>

³ Australian ODA represents approximately 1 per cent of total ODA to Africa, and Australia ranks approximately twentieth among donors in terms of volume of ODA. (Source: OECD, *Development Aid at a Glance, Statistics by Region, 2. Africa, 2018*.)

delivering over 75 projects in health, education, rural development and agriculture, water supply, peace-building, disability support and advocacy, gender equality and mineral/mining policy and administration.

Australian Volunteers played a small but valuable role in supporting Australia's objectives in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018-19, with a total of 98 volunteer placements in South Africa, Tanzania, Eswatini (Swaziland) and Lesotho. Volunteers were placed in priority sectors including agricultural productivity, extractives governance, private sector development and women's economic empowerment.

EXPENDITURE

In 2018-19, Australian Government expenditure on ODA to Sub-Saharan Africa, including bilateral, regional and global ODA, plus expenditure via other governments departments (OGD), totalled \$125.2 million. Bilateral expenditure is almost entirely directed at Australia Awards–Africa (Objective 1), with investments under Objectives 2, 3 and 4 funded from global and regional funds and other government departments. Australia was ranked as Africa's 10th largest donor in terms of volume of ODA funding in 2018.⁴

Table 1 Total ODA Expenditure in FY 2018-19

Objective	A\$ million	% of total ODA
Objective 1: Contribute to African leadership and human capacity development	32.8	26.2
Objective 2: Enhance agriculture's contribution to sustainable food security ^a	-	-
Objective 3: Respond appropriately to humanitarian crises in Africa ^b	-	-
Objective 4: Empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcomes ^c	-	-
Sub-total Bilateral	32.8	26.2
Other Regional and Global programs^d	83.3	66.5
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)	9.1	7.3
Total ODA Expenditure	125.2	100

a) Assistance to agriculture is mainly funded through ACIAR, with \$6 million in 2018-19 funded through other global and regional funding.

b) Humanitarian assistance is funded through other regional and global program funding.

c) Objective 4 does not have direct funding but is mainstreamed across all our investments.

d) This includes funding to humanitarian assistance, ANCP, volunteers and other global programs working in Sub-Saharan Africa. As reported in previous years, funding for humanitarian assistance is for the calendar year 2018, as the humanitarian program operates on a calendar year basis. For 2018, funding was from two sources: the Emergency Fund and the Protracted Crises and Strengthening Humanitarian Action budget line, and includes core funding to the World Food Programme and UNHCR (\$26.09 million).

⁴ OECD, *Development Aid at a Glance: Statistics by Region – 1. Developing Countries 2018 edition*.

PERFORMANCE TOWARDS AIP OBJECTIVES

Table 2 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>	Green	Green
Objective 2: <i>Enhance agriculture's contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic food security.</i>	Amber	Green
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>	Amber	Green

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.

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



Australia Awards contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for quality education and decent work (SDG 4) and economic growth (SDG 8). Australia Awards–Africa is the flagship aid investment of the Sub-Saharan Africa program. The program is rated green because it performed well against the objectives set out in the AIP: in particular, the program addressed skills shortages in the agricultural and extractives sectors through its short courses; it continued to promote gender equality and achieved close to parity in the numbers of scholarships awarded to women and men; and by helping to develop future leaders, it supported the development of an enabling environment for business and good governance. The two performance benchmarks for this objective were met in 2018-19: the first benchmark, to achieve gender equality in the allocation of scholarships, was close to being met with an average of 47 per cent of scholarships being awarded to women across all Australia Awards–Africa programs in 2018, similar to the proportion of women who were awarded scholarships in 2017-18. The second benchmark, that 90 per cent of alumni are using the knowledge and skills they acquired while on-award to contribute to development outcomes in their home countries, was surpassed. The 2017 Global Australia Awards Tracer Study found that over 90 per cent of alumni (who completed their studies between 2010 and 2016) had actively contributed to their countries' development. Survey results conducted in 2017 and 2018 showed that African alumni are contributing to their countries' development mainly at the organisational level in their workplaces, with nearly two-thirds relating to changes in workplace policies and practices. Contributions are from all fields of study, although some sectors, e.g. agriculture and health, were found to be more likely to result in more immediate development

contributions through direct skills transfer. Policy contributions are most likely to be made by alumni working in education and/or areas related to public policy.

In 2018-19 the program delivered more masters scholarships and short course awards than in the previous year: 156 masters scholarships, 233 short course awards, and 90 Australia Awards Fellowships were awarded in 2018-19, compared with 144 masters scholarships, 211 short course awards and 90 Fellowships in 2017-18. Forty-seven per cent of all awardees in 2018-19 were women, slightly less than the 48 per cent in 2017-18, but still close to the gender parity performance benchmark of 50 per cent as identified in the AIP. A stable program budget over the last three years has allowed DFAT to manage stakeholder expectations and continue building a critical mass of alumni across Sub-Saharan Africa in the priority sectors.

The findings of a Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) conducted in 2018 show that the challenges of delivering the program effectively and efficiently across a highly diverse region are being managed well. As reported in the final MTE report, published in June 2019, the program is on track to meet its end-of-program outcomes, i.e. (1) alumni are using their skills, knowledge and networks to contribute to sustainable development; (2) targeted countries in Africa view Australia as a valued partner; and (3) alumni have positive ongoing links with Australia. The MTE found evidence that the program is already contributing to Outcomes 1 and 2, while there was less evidence of alumni maintaining links with Australian organisations and individuals (Outcome 3). These findings confirm the results of the 2017 Tracer Study which found that alumni are using the knowledge and skills gained while on-award to contribute to development in their home country, and they have very positive perceptions of Australia. Although only nine of the 63 alumni surveyed reported that they maintained an ongoing relationship with Australian organisations or individuals, where such relationships existed they were regarded as strong, e.g. they involved exchange visits between Australian and Ugandan staff of an Australian extractives company. Similarly, an alumni-driven partnership between Zambian and Australian environmental health institutions was voted the best example of organisational twinning at the 2018 International Federation of Environmental Health World Congress.

In summary, the MTE noted that “the merit-based, gender equality and disability-inclusive ethos of Australia Awards–Africa resonates strongly”⁵ with coordinating authorities and alumni and distinguishes the program from other scholarship programs in their countries. There is strong evidence, therefore, that Australia Awards-Africa is a valuable mechanism for building goodwill and contributing to skills development in African countries, and that Australia Awards alumni are actively contributing to the success of the program across the African continent. DFAT conducted a Peer Review of the MTE which accepted all 12 of the MTE report’s key recommendations.

OBJECTIVE 2: Enhance agriculture’s contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and food security



Australia’s investments under this objective support sustainable agriculture and agribusiness development, thereby contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 15 (reducing poverty, improving food security and nutrition, promoting gender equality, supporting economic growth, and improving land management systems and practices). Assistance to the agriculture sector in Sub-Saharan Africa is rated green in 2018-19, reflecting an increase in the number of beneficiaries over the last financial year: an estimated total of 390,000

⁵ Mid-term evaluation of Australia Awards in Africa: Evaluation Report, Final Report, 22 February 2019



households, or approximately 1,950,900 smallholder farmers, benefitted from Australian assistance in 2018-19, significantly exceeding the benchmark of 812,200 beneficiaries.⁶

The program performed well against its objectives as set out in the AIP, namely to apply Australian agricultural expertise to contribute to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction in Africa. In 2018-19, Australian Government investments comprised DFAT funding to the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund (AECF) and to two multi-donor initiatives, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which helps strengthen agricultural development and food security, and the G20 AgResults initiative, which delivers beneficial agricultural technologies to poor smallholder farmers using private sector prize challenges. Australian Government assistance was also delivered through the System for Land Based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) program, implemented by the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE), and through a substantial number of projects implemented and funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), notably the Cultivate Africa's Future (CultiAF) and Trees for Food Security in Africa.

Australia's support to the AECF ceased in 2018-19, following the AECF moving from a program managed by Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to an independent entity operating in 25 African countries. The AECF provided an effective and efficient mechanism for delivering Australia's contribution to rural development efforts across Africa, providing grants and interest-free loans to nascent businesses and small to medium enterprises, with the aim of promoting resilient communities and creating jobs. It also invested in early stage livestock, poultry and seeds businesses, and linking smallholder farmers with buyers and financial services that included insurance and microfinance. Australia is one of six donors to have supported the AECF since its inception in 2008, contributing around 10 per cent of AECF funding (a total of \$32 million over ten years from 2009 to 2019). Australia's funding has been directed at two major funding windows: the Research into Business (RIB) Window and the Zimbabwe Window (ZW). RIB targeted rural households in a number of East African countries, mobilising private sector expertise and capital to commercialise agricultural technologies and techniques and making agricultural research products available to low-income smallholder farmers. Investments focused on commercialising innovative ideas and business models and on developing routes to market. RIB complemented Australia's investment in agriculture and agribusiness priorities in our Australia Awards–Africa short courses and masters scholarships. The ZW aimed to stimulate commercial private sector reinvestment to revive the agricultural industry, largely through its support for the agriculture value chain, and supported 30 businesses (to June 2018). While the performance of the ZW and RIB Windows varied over the duration of the investment, their achievements overall indicate significant benefit to Africa's rural poor. The two major funding windows contributed strongly to Australia's aid and diplomacy efforts in Africa by meeting the needs of poor African farmers and by boosting Australia's profile in a number of African countries and in international multi-donor coordination bodies.

The System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) is supporting Kenya to meet its international climate change reporting obligations and its domestic forest and land-use planning and policy objectives. The six-year \$13 million program was given a 12 month no-cost extension to assist in institutionalising and further embedding the system within the Kenyan Government.

ACIAR, the Australian Government's specialist agricultural research for development agency, funded and delivered significant support for agriculture through 22 projects in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018-19 valued in total at approximately \$9 million. ACIAR continued to partner with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in the Cultivate Africa's Future program which generated a number of positive results. For example, the Precooked Beans for Food, Nutrition, and Income project in Kenya and Uganda trained 14,552 women farmers in good agronomic practices, resulting in an increase in their average annual incomes from bean sales from US\$120 to US\$170. In 2018-19 ACIAR continued to facilitate engagement of Australian universities in Sub-Saharan Africa through the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN) which

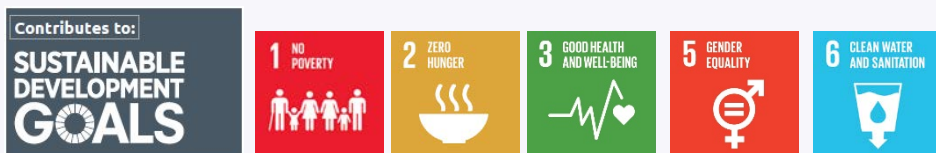
⁶ Of the estimated total of 1,950,000, an estimated 1,900,900 smallholder farmers benefitted from AECF support in 2018-19, which another 50,000 farmers benefitted from ACIAR programs. It was agreed with AECF management that program performance would be assessed solely on the basis of the first benchmark, i.e. the number of men and women who increased their income, for which reasonably reliable data is available. Measurement of impact against the second benchmark (the number of men and women who had increased access to financial services), however, depended on data that was variable and unreliable. It was therefore decided that this benchmark should be dropped.



is implementing over ten programs with eight African and Australian university partners, improving food security and safety, developing new crops, improving livestock management practices and reducing the rates of post-harvest loss. In addition, ACIAR continued to implement crop improvement and animal husbandry projects and deliver training to farmers, targeting women farmers, thereby contributing to improving food security across countries in East, West and South Africa.

Australia's contribution to two global multi-donor funds included significant investments in Sub-Saharan Africa delivered through AgResults, managed through the World Bank, and the Global Agriculture and Food Security program (GAFSP), managed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Both funds demonstrated strong results in 2018-19: AgResults assisted over 700,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia and Uganda, for example by improving post-harvest storage at the farm level in Kenya; and GAFSP provided support for agricultural development and agri-business investments in 14 African fragile and conflict-affected countries. Australia's contribution to AgResults totalled \$24.5 million since 2012, while our contribution to GAFSP amounted to \$116 million since 2010. In 2018-19, Australia contributed \$6 million to support new projects under GAFSP aimed at increasing the incomes of poor smallholder farmers, addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, and improving the resilience of food systems.

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



Australia's humanitarian assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa contributes to the achievement of five of the first six SDGs: poverty reduction, ending hunger, supporting improved health and well-being, gender equality and clean water and sanitation. Performance against this objective is rated green in 2018-19, with the program achieving almost all its high-level indicators: it allocated over 80 per cent of funding to pooled multi-donor funds; all investments were based on comprehensive needs assessments and delivered humanitarian assistance in line with beneficiaries' priority needs and our objectives; and the percentage of partners reporting sex-disaggregated data exceeded the benchmark target of 80 per cent. The program reached an estimated 634,478⁷ vulnerable people in 2018-19, falling slightly short of the benchmark of 670,000 due to a reduction in funding in 2018-19; but for each dollar spent, a greater number of people received life-saving assistance, demonstrating greater efficiencies than in previous years.⁸

This APPR reports on the Africa humanitarian program in the 2018 calendar year, following the same reporting pattern of previous years. The program allocated \$51.5 million in 2018 to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people, focusing on South Sudan and Somalia, and delivered through international and Australian partners including the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Committee of the Red Cross, Oxfam and World Vision and other Australian NGOs. This amount included \$21 million in core funding to WFP to assist vulnerable people in African countries. OCHA manages the multi-donor Somalia Humanitarian Fund which supports urgent life-saving interventions in the most under-served and hard-to-reach areas in Somalia, including through the provision of food commodities, shelter, water supplies and sanitation, and health services. Humanitarian assistance delivered by Australian NGOs includes the Somalia Resilience Program, managed by World Vision, which supports pastoral livelihoods, enabling vulnerable people to develop resilience and improve food

⁷ Benchmark data are derived from delivery partners' annual program reports including from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, World Food Programme, and International Committee of the Red Cross and NGO partners. The humanitarian benchmark figure is calculated using an estimate of the total humanitarian funds likely to be allocated in a one-year reporting period divided by the cost per person reached (this is based on an average figure from the Africa humanitarian aggregate development results 2018-19). Funding levels, and consequently benchmark results vary from year to year.

⁸ This is demonstrated by the fact that in 2018 we spent approximately \$50 million and reached 634,000 people, while in 2017 for the same amount of funding we reached only 560,000.



security. In South Sudan, WFP distributes food to people affected by conflict, displacement, weather-related or economic shocks; provides nutrition counselling to mothers; and promotes resilience among smallholder farmers through improved infrastructure, training, post-harvest storage and strengthening governance in early warning systems and disaster risk management. In Somalia, WFP helps prevent acute and chronic malnutrition by distributing nutrient-rich foods to mothers and young children, and to other vulnerable people in need of supplementary foods.

Australian humanitarian assistance in 2018-19 also included support to those affected by natural disasters. Cyclone Idai, reported as one of the worst tropical cyclones on record in Africa and the Southern Hemisphere, left more than 1,300 people dead and many thousands injured and homeless. Australia provided over \$2.5 million to support the humanitarian response to victims of the cyclone in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In 2018, Australia completed its term as co-chair of the Somalia Informal Humanitarian Donor Group (IHDG) and member of the Somalia Humanitarian Fund Advisory Board and assumed responsibility for the IHDG protection and access working group. In Somalia and South Sudan we remain engaged through these and other donor fora and have made good progress in advocating Australia's humanitarian policy priorities. For example, our efforts to increase awareness of and commitment to disability inclusion among our key partners has contributed to improvements in inclusive planning in SomRep, OCHA and WFP activities.

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



In 2018-19 the Sub-Saharan Africa program as a whole is rated green in terms of contributing to the improvement of gender equality outcomes as its major investments performed well in terms of addressing gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2017-18, the program was rated amber against this objective due to the underperformance of three legacy investments: AECF, SLEEK and Nigeria Humanitarian Assistance. The AECF ended in June 2019, while Nigeria Humanitarian Assistance finished in April 2018 and SLEEK will finish on 31 December 2019. In 2018-19, the Sub-Saharan Africa program's only major bilateral investment, Australia Award–Africa, achieved or exceeded the 50 per cent target for scholarships awarded to women in all except one partner country. The program's other major investments in humanitarian assistance, agriculture and food security, funded through global or regional funds or other government departments, also achieved their performance targets for gender equality in 2018-19. Gender equality is a key focus area of the Australian Volunteers program in Sub-Saharan Africa: in South Africa, for example, a volunteer Gender Specialist helped to build the capacity of the partner organisation in gender analysis and empowerment.

All of the Sub-Saharan Africa posts have Gender Action Plans (GAP) to support implementation of the Australian Government's *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy* in the region. All posts actively promote and support gender equality and empowerment in all aspects of their business including corporate practices, delivery of development (including selection of projects for DAP support), and foreign policy and trade objectives. All promote and actively support gender equality in their Australia Awards programs at the promotions and selection stages, and almost all met or exceeded the 50 per cent target for scholarships awarded to women in 2018. Efforts to achieve gender equality included introducing new short courses on topics related to education and health – sectors which traditionally have stronger representation by women.

One of the challenges in achieving equal access for women and men in the Australia Awards program in Sub-Saharan Africa is that a large proportion of scholarships are awarded for study in the extractives sector in which women are poorly represented. In response to this challenge, the sectoral focus of short courses has



been expanded in 2018-19 to include courses on subjects such as health and TVET in which women have been better represented professionally, with new short courses planned for delivery in 2019-20. In addition, Posts ramped up efforts to direct Australia Awards promotional campaigns to women's organisations and in women's spaces. These efforts have only seen a modest increase in the number of scholarship applications from women, however, and it is acknowledged that a range of social, cultural and economic factors impact on women's ability to access Australia Awards scholarships and inhibit them from applying.⁹

The Australia Awards Women in Leadership Network (WILN), launched in 2013, connects past and present female scholarship recipients, providing leadership and mentoring opportunities and supporting female alumni to access professional development and networking opportunities. With approximately 450 members across Sub-Saharan Africa, WILN connected 209 Australia Awards scholars with mentors in 2018-19, and held training workshops for WILN members in Abuja, Accra, Nairobi and Pretoria in March 2019, with participants from 19 countries.

All posts give priority to DAP projects with a strong gender focus: Addis Ababa post supported three DAP projects which directly address gender equality and women's empowerment, and more than half of all Pretoria post's DAP projects in 2018-19 focused on women's empowerment, gender equality or ending violence against women as a primary objective. Accra post hosted an event for the 2018 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia and International Women's Day 2018, and raised over \$50,000 in 2018 to support the Pearl Safe Haven women's shelter (one of only two women's shelters in Ghana). Abuja post sponsored a Women in Mining event held in conjunction with the Abuja Mining Summit, involving the presidents of Women in Mining associations from Ghana, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire, participating alongside over 120 women from the private sector and Nigerian state mining groups. Port Louis post continued to advocate on gender equality in Mauritius, while Addis Ababa post provided \$1 million to the African Union to assist it in its efforts in gender equality mainstreaming and supported three DAP projects which addressed gender equality and empowerment.

MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The Sub-Saharan Africa aid program reflects the priorities of African partner governments and is aligned with Australia's national interests and expertise. Australia does not have formalised mutual obligations or shared priorities in the same way as a large single-country bilateral program; instead, we deliver aid in line with the objectives of the Sub-Saharan Africa Aid Investment Plan (AIP) 2015-2019 and its performance benchmarks.


Australia works closely with key donors in the region, including the United States, UN agencies, Canada, the multilateral development banks, the United Kingdom, European Union, and other European donors to oversee implementation, monitoring and evaluation of jointly-funded investments in the region.

PROGRAM QUALITY

The Sub-Saharan Africa program performed well overall, with consistently strong ratings across its major investments. The program's one major bilateral investment, Australia Awards-Africa, scored well in the 2018-19 AQC across all criteria, and the 2018 Mid-term Review confirmed that the program is performing well against its two key benchmarks of gender equality and alumni using their knowledge and skills to contribute to their countries' development. In the coming years, maintaining program quality in the context of budget constraints will remain our top priority, with a continuing focus on achieving parity in the number of scholarships awarded to women and men, and enabling alumni to make a positive contribution to their countries' development.

The two Sub-Saharan Africa program's major humanitarian investments are implemented by large multilateral partners with the systems, resources and experience to deliver their programs to high quality standards. These programs performed well in 2018-19 in terms of effectiveness: all partner organisations

⁹ This information is based on the findings of the MTE and reinforced by feedback from the Managing Contractor, Posts.



achieved at least three-quarters of their output level Key Performance Indicators – e.g. the number of beneficiaries reached – and provided reasonable explanations for shortfalls, such as population movement or security threats. The program demonstrated greater efficiencies in 2018 than in the previous year, with each dollar spent delivering life-saving assistance to more vulnerable women and men than in the previous year. In addition, the partner organisations promoted gender equality across all their programs and reported gender-disaggregated data in annual and/or completion reports. All partners have robust, well-resourced M&E systems and demonstrated effective coordination around program planning, implementation and quality monitoring, e.g. partners conducted a joint baseline study to refine project plans. Continuing to deliver these programs through multilateral partners is deemed to be the most efficient and effective means of providing humanitarian assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa in the future.

As described above, Australian Government assistance to the agriculture sector in Sub-Saharan Africa was delivered mainly by ACIAR. Drawing on Australian expertise, ACIAR is ideally placed to test and deliver innovative rural development projects; in the context of Sub-Saharan Africa, these projects are demonstrating positive outcomes in terms of enhancing African smallholder farmers' capacity to undertake sustainable livelihoods, improve land management and develop resilience to drought, floods and extreme weather events associated with climate change.

Australia's contribution to two global multi-donor funds, AgResults and GAFSP, delivered substantial benefits in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018-19, as reported above. In 2019-20, Australian assistance to agricultural development and agri-business investment will continue to be delivered through funding to these two global funds and by ACIAR, working in partnership with the IDRC in the Cultivate Africa's Future program and with the AAUN in delivering research, training and direct assistance across East, West and South Africa.

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Progress in implementing the management actions identified in the 2017-18 APPR is summarised below in Annex A.

Management actions to be implemented in 2019-20 are identified below.

1. *Aid Investment Plan*: The development of a new AIP for the Africa program was identified as a management action for 2018-19 in the previous APPR, with the final AIP to be finalised by the end of 2019.
2. *Australia Awards–Africa*: The Australia Awards initiative manager, in close consultation with posts and the managing contractor, will implement the recommendations set out in the Mid-term Evaluation and endorsed by DFAT.
3. *Humanitarian assistance*: Building on its achievements in 2018, the humanitarian program will continue advocating for stronger disability inclusion, gender equality and risk management among our key partners and more broadly in the response in Somalia and South Sudan.
4. *Agriculture*: From 2019-20 onwards, Australian Government assistance to the agriculture sector in Africa will be managed and delivered by ACIAR, with additional support through multilateral organisations to two global multi-donor agriculture programs managed through the World Bank.
5. *Gender equality and disability*: In response to a recommendation by ODE, the Sub-Saharan Africa program will develop a specific approach to incorporating consideration of disability in all its programs. Depending on the availability of resources, an integrated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy will be developed in 2019-20 for the Africa program.

ANNEX A - PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Management responses identified in 2017-18 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2018-19
<i>Aid Investment Plan:</i> In 2018-19, DFAT is due to develop a new Aid Investment Plan (AIP) for the Sub-Saharan Africa program. It will be an opportunity to identify new or changed priorities and ensure alignment with the Foreign Policy White Paper.	Partly achieved	Work on this task has commenced, but due to competing priorities completion of the AIP has been delayed and will now be finalised by the end of 2019.
<i>Australia Awards–Africa</i> (1) In 2018-19, DFAT will commission a Mid-term Evaluation of the Australia Awards-Africa program to provide information on its performance, efficiency, effectiveness and inform the future direction of the program.	Achieved	An independent Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) was conducted in 2018 and the final MTE report was published mid 2019. The MTE found the program is on track to meet its three end-of-program outcomes. The MTE's 12 recommendations were accepted by DFAT in its Management Response.
(2) AAA DFAT Program Manager will broaden the suite of short courses to include health and vocational training and, in turn, participation by women. The expected outcome is an increase in the number of applications from women.	Achieved	AAA delivered 10 short courses in 2018-19 including in subjects such as health and TVET aimed at attracting applications from women. This resulted in a modest increase in the number of applications from women.
(3) AAA DFAT Program Manager will institute a new approach to Awards promotions to increase applications from the private sector and civil society. The expected outcome is an increase in the number of awards to non-government applicants.	Achieved	AAA promotions in 2018-19 included targeting the private sector and civil society, resulting in a modest increase in the number of applications from those sectors.
(4) AAA DFAT Program Manager will review and monitor the themes, content and delivery of the new 'Stay Connected' workshops designed to address successful reintegration of Australia Awards-Africa recipients to their workplaces.	Achieved	The AAA Program Manager and other DFAT officers have attended the majority of Stay Connected workshops in 2018-19 and provided feedback. The workshops are generally considered to be effective in providing participants with additional skills and knowledge that contribute to the enrichment of their on-award experience.
<i>Humanitarian program:</i> The humanitarian program will explore approaches for building DFAT capacity to monitor and evaluate our investments, including through a locally engaged humanitarian officer at the Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa and joint monitoring approaches with other donors in Somalia and South Sudan.	Achieved	Monitoring and evaluation capacity has been strengthened by the appointment of a locally engaged humanitarian officer in Addis Ababa. The program continues to explore joint monitoring approaches with other donors.
<i>Agriculture:</i> The Kenyan Government is still in the process of recruiting staff with the required technical skills to administer the SLEEK program. Two consecutive national elections in 2017 delayed the recruitment process. Australia is working with the Kenyan government to ensure sustainability of the program, which ends on 31 December 2018, with a particular emphasis on staffing and institutionalisation.	Partially achieved	The SLEEK program, managed by DoEE, was given a no-cost 12 month extension to assist in institutionalising and further embedding the system within the Kenyan government, providing an opportunity for the program to be as effective as possible. The program will end on 31 December 2019.

Management responses identified in 2017-18 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2018-19
<p><i>Timely publication of evaluations:</i> In 2017-18 the monitoring and evaluation program manager (Pan Africa and Effectiveness Section) undertook to work with desk and post officers to develop an Africa Branch approach to support publication of future evaluations in line with the requirements of DFAT's monitoring and evaluation standards. There were no independent evaluations requiring publication in 2017-18. This management response will be implemented in 2018-19.</p>	Achieved	The final Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) report for the Australia Awards– Africa program was published in mid 2019 in line with DFAT's M&E and performance reporting requirements.
<p><i>Disability inclusion:</i> ODE recommended developing a specific approach for overall consideration of disability. A number of programs consider and address disability issues including Australia Awards-Africa, DAP, ANCP, Volunteers and Humanitarian programs. Management Action was deferred until the release of the Strategic Evaluation into Disability Inclusive Development in November 2018.</p>	Not achieved	Depending on resource availability, an integrated Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Strategy will be developed for the Africa program in 2019-20.

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 2018-19

Aid objective	Performance Benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2018-19
Overall program objective	<i>90 per cent allocation of funding across Sub-Saharan Africa will be focused on countries in Eastern and Southern Africa</i>	Achieved	Over 90 per cent of ODA was allocated in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, not including DAP and ANCP as funding data are not yet available to determine geographic focus.
AIP Strategic Objective 1	<i>Australia Awards - Africa will work towards achieving gender parity in its allocation of scholarships.</i>	Achieved	In 2018-19, 47 per cent of awardees were women, thereby achieving close to parity in the allocation of scholarships between women and men.
	<i>Proportion of alumni using awards-acquired skills and knowledge to contribute to development outcomes – 90%.</i>	Achieved	The 2018 MTE and 2018 Outcomes Study Report found that over 90 per cent of respondents reported they are contributing to development outcomes, and attributed their contributions to skills and knowledge acquired while they were on-award.
AIP Strategic Objective 2	<i>812,200 poor women and men increase their incomes</i>	Achieved	Programs and projects supported under this objective benefitted an estimated 1,950,900 poor smallholder farmers: the AECF RiB and ZW windows contributed to increasing the incomes of an estimated 1,900,900 poor women and men farmers, while ACIAR programs benefitted an estimated 50,000 farmers.
	<i>812,200 poor women and men who increase their access to financial services</i>	n/a	The impact data for this benchmark was not considered strong so it will no longer be used.
AIP Strategic Objective 3	<i>670,000 vulnerable people provided with life-saving assistance in conflict and crisis situations</i>	Partly Achieved	The program reached 634,000 vulnerable people in 2018, falling slightly short of the benchmark. This was due to a reduction in funding for the program in 2018-19, but based on the dollar per capita spent, the program actually demonstrated greater efficiencies than in the previous year. In addition, the partner organisations continued to deliver life-saving assistance in line with beneficiaries' priority needs and our objectives. Consequently, while the performance benchmark was only partly achieved, the performance of the program overall is rated green.
	<i>80 per cent of partners reporting gender disaggregated data.</i>	Achieved	Eight out of nine (over 80 per cent) partners provided sex-disaggregated data. ICRC usually reports sex-disaggregated data, but did not provide in their 2018-19 annual reporting.
AIP Strategic Objective 4	<i>85 per cent of investments having a satisfactory or above score for gender equality</i>	Partly Achieved	Four out of six aid investments which underwent an AQC or FAQC in 2018-19 received a rating of satisfactory or above for gender equality through the AQC process. One of the two legacy investments which were rated less than satisfactory finished in 2018-19 and the remaining investment was granted a no-cost extension to 31 December 2019. The Sub-Saharan Africa program's flagship bilateral investment, Australia Awards–Africa, performed well against this objective, as did the other major investments under Objectives 2 and 3.
	<i>All investments collect, analyse and report sex-disaggregated data and have a strategy, informed by gender analysis, to improve gender equality outcomes.</i>	Partly Achieved	Four out of six investments demonstrated that they achieved this benchmark in 2018-19. The two underperforming investments have either ended in 2018-19 or will finish in 2019.

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

2 Performance Benchmarks for 2019-20*

* At the time of preparing this APPR, the new Performance Assessment Framework was still under development as part of the new AIP for the period 2020-2024. Performance benchmarks will be reviewed and redefined once the AIP Strategic Objectives have been finalised.

Annex C – EVALUATION PLANNING

1 LIST OF EVALUATIONS COMPLETED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

Investment number and name (if applicable)	Name of evaluation	Date completed	Date Evaluation report Uploaded into AidWorks	Date Management response uploaded into AidWorks	Published on website
INL420 Australia Awards-Africa 2015-2020	Mid-term evaluation of Australia Awards in Africa: Evaluation Report	22 February 2019	10 April 2019	14 August 2019	13 June 2019 (publication delayed by caretaker period)
INL420 Australia Awards-Africa 2015-2020	Outcomes Study 2018	7 March 2019	12 April 2019	15 April 2019	9 April 2019

2 LIST OF PROGRAM PRIORITISED EVALUATIONS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

Evaluation title	Investment number and name (if applicable)	Date – planned commencement (month/year)	Date – planned completion (month/year)	Purpose of evaluation	Evaluation type
No evaluations are planned for 2019-20					

ANNEX D - AID QUALITY CHECK RATINGS

1 AQC RATINGS

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality
INL420 Australia Awards Africa	\$67.7m 2015-20	2019 AQC	n/a	5	5	n/a	n/a	5
		2018 AQC	6	5	5	6	4	4
INJ532 Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund	\$26.9m 2010-19	2019 AQC	n/a	4	4	n/a	n/a	3
		2018 AQC	4	4	4	4	3	3
INK531 SLEEK – System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya	\$13m 2012-19	2019 AQC	n/a	4	4	n/a	n/a	3
		2018 AQC	5	4	4	4	5	3

2 HAQC RATINGS

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Overall rating	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Connectedness	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
INM130 Somalia Humanitarian Assistance 2016-17	\$20.9m 2016-19	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	5
INM132 South Sudan Humanitarian Assistance	\$32.5m 2016-19	4	5	5	5	4	5	4	5

3 FAQC RATINGS

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	Overall rating	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
INJ211 Improving Agricultural Productivity in Africa (INI879 Zimbabwe Food Security Window and Research into Business Window, AECF)	\$29.9m 2010-19	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

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

Sub-Saharan Africa Performance Assessment Framework - Program Logic						
End of program goal	To assist African people to achieve more equitable access to the benefits of economic growth and to save lives through appropriate and effective humanitarian action					
	Pillar 1: Awards	Pillar 1 Awards	Pillar 1 Awards	Pillar 2: Agriculture	Pillar 3 Humanitarian	Pillar 4: Empower women and girls
Long Term Outcome	Australia Awards enhance development of targeted African countries and build positive relations with Australia.	Targeted countries in Africa view Australia as a valued partner.	Alumni have positive ongoing links with Australia.	DFAT's support improves livelihoods and increases resilience of the poor.	African people in humanitarian need receive the most effective and efficient lifesaving support.	Key partners adopt improved approaches to gender equality.
Intermediate outcome	Alumni use their knowledge, skills and networks in sectors relevant to their training to contribute to sustainable development.	Alumni contribute to Australia's influence and standing in Africa.	Alumni use their networks to inform development practices in key sectors.	DFAT's support for key programs helps to improve agricultural capacities and access to key services.	Partners deliver appropriate humanitarian assistance.	Improved approaches to gender equality lead to improved program outcomes.
Activity output	Program participants receive good quality, relevant education, training, professional development (including gender equality, inclusiveness and good governance) and research.	Program communicates Australia Awards Alumni successes and contributions in international education, expertise and investments.	Links established between Alumni and Australian individuals, governments, businesses, communities and higher education institutions.	DFAT funds programs, which aim to enhance agricultural productivity and food security for the poor in select African countries (and regions).	Australia provides humanitarian support to African people for relief and recovery.	Australia advocates for and provides technical assistance to programs it funds to strengthen gender equality.

APPENDIX 1: 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INFOGRAPHICS

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	Reduce inequality within and among countries
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	Ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation for all	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	Ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all	 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all
 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment	 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
 <p>9 INDUSTRIE, INNOVATIE EN INFRASTRUCTUUR</p>	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable Industrialisation and foster innovation		