AUSTRALIA

Leaving no one behind: Australia’s approach and priorities

Australia is committed to leaving no one behind as per the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its domestic and international approach to leaving no one behind is a theme of its first (in 2018) Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda. Australia believes that the universal, indivisible and inalienable nature of human rights and the focus of its aid policy framework – notably poverty reduction, gender, disability and indigenous peoples – are consistent with leaving no one behind.

Australia has integrated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into programme guidance including for its annual programme performance reports and aid investment plans. Its mapping of aid investments shows their relevance for several SDGs. For example, agriculture, fisheries and water investments contribute to at least seven SDGs.

Closing data gaps, targeting interventions for disadvantaged/vulnerable groups while addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage across groups, and effectively mainstreaming leave no one behind in development co-operation, are key challenges it faces. It supports initiatives such as the Individual Deprivation Measure, is learning from gender mainstreaming, is looking at equity in programming, and is developing an inclusive growth and governance diagnostic tool to situate its country strategies for development co-operation firmly in the realities of the context.

Financial flows from Australia to developing countries

Australia’s performance against commitments for effective development co-operation

| Table 14.1. Results of the 2016 Global Partnership monitoring round (updated), Australia |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                  | Alignment and ownership by partner country (%) | Predictability (%) | Transparency |
|                  | Use of country-led results frameworks | Funding recorded in countries’ national budgets | Funding through countries’ systems | Untied ODA | Annual predictability | Medium-term predictability | Retrospective statistics (OECD CRS) | Information for forecasting (OECD FSS) | Publishing to IATI |
| Australia       |                                |                          |                          |            |                        |                          |                                     |                          |                        |
| 2016            | 71.9%                          | 50.2%                     | 32.8%                     | 100.0%     | 95.9%                  | 79.9%                     | good                                | needs improvement                  | fair                    |
| Baseline        | -                              | 34.8%                     | 23.5%                     | 100.0%     | 68.9%                  | 51.5%                     | good                                | needs improvement                  | fair                    |
| Trend           | -                              | †                          | †                          | =          | †                      | †                          | †                                   | †                        | †                      |

Note: Please refer to Annex B for details on the indicators. Data on untied ODA, retrospective statistics and publishing to the IATI have been updated according to the latest information available.
Australia’s official development assistance

Australia provided USD 3 billion in net ODA in 2017 (preliminary data), which represented 0.23% of gross national income (GNI) and a fall of 15.8% in real terms from 2016, due to cuts in its multilateral official development assistance (ODA). Australia did not report expenditure on in-donor refugee costs as ODA in 2017. It considers that its processing of irregular migrants does not align with Development Assistance Committee (DAC) rules for in-donor refugee costs.

Australia’s share of untied ODA (excluding administrative costs and in-donor refugee costs) was 100% in 2016, while the DAC average was 81.2%. The grant element of total ODA was 100% in 2016.

In 2016, 69.9% of ODA was provided bilaterally. Australia allocated 30.1% of total ODA as core contributions to multilateral organisations. In addition, it channelled 25.2% of its bilateral ODA for projects implemented by multilateral organisations (multi-bi/non-core).

In 2016, 66.5% of bilateral ODA was programmed with partner countries. Australia’s share of country programmable aid was above the DAC country average (46.8%) and 46% of this aid consisted of project-type interventions.

Figure 14.3. ODA composition in 2010-16 and distribution of multilateral ODA in 2016, Australia

In 2016, USD 315.6 million of bilateral ODA was channelled to and through civil society organisations (CSOs). This represented 13.8% of bilateral ODA, compared with 14.8% in 2015.

Figure 14.4. Composition of bilateral ODA, 2016, gross disbursements, Australia

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Figure 14.5. Gross bilateral ODA disbursements to and through CSOs by type of CSO, 2010-16, Australia
In 2016, bilateral ODA was primarily focused on Asia and Oceania. USD 735 million was allocated to Oceania, USD 523.3 million to Far East Asia, and USD 216 million to south and central Asia.

Figure 14.6. Share of bilateral ODA by region, 2016, gross disbursements, Australia

Note: Twenty-eight per cent of bilateral ODA allocated was unspecified by region in 2016. This share is not represented on the map.

In 2016, 47.4% of bilateral ODA went to Australia’s top 10 recipients. Its top recipients are in the Indo-Pacific region, where Australia invested 90% of country programmable aid in 2015-16. Australia’s support to fragile contexts reached USD 0.8 billion in 2016 (36% of gross bilateral ODA). Support to fragile contexts consisted mainly of project-type interventions (43%), contributions to pooled funds (28%) and technical assistance (18%).

In 2016, 23.3% of Australia’s bilateral ODA was allocated to least developed countries (LDCs), corresponding to USD 534.4 million. This is down from 24.6% in 2015, but remains higher than the DAC average of 21.9%. Lower middle-income countries received the highest share of bilateral ODA in 2016 (35.7%).

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In 2016, 43% of bilateral ODA was allocated to social infrastructure and services, representing USD 984.6 million. There was a strong focus on support to government and civil society (USD 492.6 million), education (USD 217.2 million), and health (USD 122.3 million). Humanitarian aid amounted to USD 148 million. In 2016, Australia committed USD 2.9 million (0.1% of bilateral allocable aid) to the mobilisation of domestic resources in developing countries. Australia also committed USD 372.7 million (17.8% of bilateral allocable aid) to promote aid for trade and to improve developing countries’ trade performance and integration into the world economy.

USD 1.3 billion of bilateral ODA supported gender equality. In 2016, 72% of Australia’s bilateral allocable aid had gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal or significant objective. This is an important increase from 2015 (when it represented 54.1%) and is higher than the 2016 DAC country average of 36.5%. Australia’s aid to population, reproductive health and education focuses on gender.

USD 483 million of bilateral ODA supported the environment in 2016. In 2016, 23.1% of Australia’s bilateral allocable aid focused on the environment, compared with the DAC country average of 33%. In 2016, 18.9% of its bilateral allocable aid (USD 394.5 million) focused particularly on climate change, compared with the DAC country average of 25.7%.