



Water is an increasingly scarce resource that is important for economic growth and human development. Australia invests in water and sanitation to improve management of scarce water resources; increase opportunities for economic growth; improve quality and access to drinking water and sanitation; and improve hygiene practices.

Strategic direction

The Prime Minister is a member of the UN-World Bank High Level Panel on Water. Established in April 2016 (with a two year mandate), the purpose of the Panel is to accelerate implementation of **Sustainable Development Goal 6** to “achieve access to water and sanitation for all”. Through its work on the Panel, Australia aims to share its water management expertise in water data and water use efficiency to help unlock food production, improve health outcomes, strengthen economies, and reduce poverty.

Three strategies guide our official aid expenditure on water for development, and support our programs to make informed investment choices within global, regional or country level allocations for 2017-18 and beyond:

- improving water resource management requires strengthening markets, innovating for productivity and sustainable resource use, and promoting effective policy, governance and reform. See the *Strategy for Australia’s aid investments in agriculture, fisheries and water*
- increasing access to clean water and sanitation and improving hygiene practices (WASH) as pre-conditions for good health. See the *Health for Development Strategy*
- ensuring large scale water and sanitation infrastructure is well-built, operated and maintained. See the *Strategy for Australia’s investments in Economic Infrastructure*.

Australia’s work in water for development contributes towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG6 which aims to ensure access to safe water and sanitation for all.

Key framework documents

- [Strategy for Australia’s aid investments in agriculture, fisheries and water](#)
- [Health for Development Strategy](#)
- [Strategy for Australia’s investments in Economic Infrastructure](#)

AUSTRALIAN WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT ODA	2016-17 Estimated Outcome (\$m)	2017-18 Budget Estimate (\$m)
Pacific	16.5	14.2
East Asia	42.4	34.0
South & West Asia	14.5	14.2
Africa & the Middle East	10.8	9.6
Rest of the World*	34.4	34.6
Total	118.6	106.6

*Includes ODA that is not attributed to particular countries or regions
ODA = Official Development Assistance

Program highlights

- Increased access to safe water for 1,799,059 women and men and increased access to basic sanitation for 1,773,179 women and men in 2015-16.
- Australian expertise to improve sustainable water management and water services delivery provided to countries in our region under the Australian Water Partnership.
- Civil society organisations supported by the Civil Society WASH Fund to enhance the health and quality of life of up to 3.5 million poor people by 2018 by improving sustainable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

Australian Water for Development ODA by Partner Type 2016-17 (outcome)

