Australian development cooperation assists African people to achieve more equitable access to the benefits of economic growth and saves lives through appropriate and effective humanitarian action.

Strategic direction

The bulk of Australia’s development cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa is directed to countries where we have strong national interests and are able to leverage results. Australia Awards is our flagship program offering scholarships in support of good governance and capacity building in the agriculture, extractives and public policy sectors, where Australia has expertise and the greatest potential to make a difference. This work contributes towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Four objectives underpin Australia’s development cooperation program to Sub-Saharan Africa:

- contribute to African leadership and human capacity development in areas of critical skills shortages;
- enhance agriculture’s contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic growth and food security;
- respond appropriately to humanitarian crises through effective humanitarian partners and support advocacy for effective international humanitarian action; and
- empower women and girls and improve gender equality outcomes.

Program highlights

- Australia Awards—Africa in 2019 supported 336 awards including 162 Masters scholarships and 174 short course awards.
- Women received 50 per cent of the Australia Awards-Africa Scholarships in 2019.
- Australia improved agricultural productivity by conducting research into food security and farming techniques that increased crop yields and benefited the livelihoods of African farmers (SDG2).
- In 2018, Australia’s humanitarian assistance to Africa reached over 634,000 vulnerable people.

For more details:
Australia’s Aid Investment Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa 2015-19