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What is the Direct Aid Program?

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 across the globe.

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. This may include projects which support good governance, human rights and those with a strong advocacy component,
- 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 an effective way to build relationships and maintain Australia’s profile.

In 2015-16 DAP projects achieved a range of positive outcomes in sectors such as education, health, water and sanitation, women’s empowerment and gender equality, supporting people with disabilities, economic livelihoods, food security and human rights.

DAP projects engage a wide range of partners including community groups, non-government organisations, schools and local governments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total funding (2015-16):</th>
<th>$22 million</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number of projects:</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Australian embassies and High Commissions utilising DAP:</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of countries:</td>
<td>120</td>
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The International Development Fund

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, Geneva and Vienna, and to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. The IDF helps build support for multilateral agendas that Australia wishes to advance. It supports aid-eligible projects and those that enable developing countries to participate in international meetings.

Countries that received DAP funding, 2015-16
# DAP ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES (2015-16)

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Administering post</th>
<th>Eligible countries / territories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Abuja (Nigeria)</td>
<td>Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, The Gambia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Niger, Chad</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Accra (Ghana)</td>
<td>Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)</td>
<td>Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan</td>
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<td>Cairo (Egypt)</td>
<td>Egypt, Eritrea, Sudan, Syria</td>
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<td>Harare (Zimbabwe)</td>
<td>Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Congo (Democratic Republic of)</td>
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<td>Lisbon (Portugal)*</td>
<td>Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe</td>
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<td>Nairobi (Kenya)</td>
<td>Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia</td>
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<td>Madrid (Spain)*</td>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
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<td>Port Louis (Mauritius)</td>
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<td>Pretoria (South Africa)</td>
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<td>Brasilia (Brazil)</td>
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<td>Buenos Aires (Argentina)</td>
<td>Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay</td>
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<td>Lima (Peru)</td>
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<td>Mexico City (Mexico)</td>
<td>Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama</td>
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<td>Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)*</td>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname</td>
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<td>Colombo (Sri Lanka)</td>
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<td>Moscow (Russia)*</td>
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* The host country does not receive DAP funds
In 2015-16, $6.31 million was provided to 190 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 $980,000 across 25 projects. Twenty two of these projects were in Nigeria, two in Cameroon and one in Benin. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects continued to support strategic responses to the humanitarian situation driven by the Boko Haram conflict in the north-eastern part of Nigeria, as well as parts of Niger and Cameroon. One such project has been working to improve the access of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to fuel efficient stoves and cooking fuels. This has cut down the risks faced in gathering firewood and resulted in less smoke related health issues in the pilot camp, as well as given some unemployed IDPs valuable life skills.

DAP also supported projects to improve gender equality and women’s empowerment across Nigeria. One particular project is engaging men as allies in women’s empowerment in Plateau state. Male traditional and religious leaders are being trained on women’s legal rights, violence against women and the psychological trauma it produces, customs and customary law that limit women’s progress, international and national laws that protect women, the role of women in an Islamic legal system, women’s access to justice, and HIV and the dangers of substance abuse.

**Accra**

The Australian High Commission in Accra provided Direct Aid Program (DAP) funding totalling $820,000 for 22 projects in Ghana, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Projects focused on poverty reduction, with priority given to food security and the extractives sector. Other projects focused on governance, education, water, health and sanitation (WASH) and disability rights.
The Australian High Commission in Accra provided a DAP grant to the Association for Small African Projects in Burkina Faso (ASAP-BF) to help promote the use and adoption of modern technologies for beekeeping. ASAP-BF expects to help make beekeeping a more viable business and thereby increase incomes and improve living conditions (for beekeepers and their families), support the provision of safe, healthy honey for consumers, contribute to the preservation of bee life and the environment, and strengthen local capacity in honey production.

Cassava is a major tuber crop in the farming system of Ghana contributing significantly to food security and poverty reduction. DAP funds supported a project which equipped cassava processors with knowledge and skills to improve cassava handling, packaging and create market linkages. The project was implemented by the Ghana-Australia Alumni Association and has delivered major benefits in food security and the improvement of livelihoods.

Cassava growers in the Eastern and Greater Accra regions of Ghana work with members of the Ghana-Australia Alumni Association to improve their skills.

Addis Ababa

The Australian Embassy in Addis Ababa provided funds totalling $614,000 for 14 projects mainly focused on empowering youth. Ten projects were funded in Ethiopia, three projects in South Sudan and one in Central African Republic. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects continued to focus on poverty reduction with priority given to children and youth education and life skills in Ethiopia and Central African Republic. In South Sudan, projects focused on the development of life skills for youth and strengthening civil society towards building peace and stability.

In Ethiopia, the Bahir Zaf Training Restaurant is part of the Tree Alliance group, a global social enterprise network providing vocational training to marginalised youth under the guidance of the not for profit organisation, Friends-International. Bahir Zaf is working in partnership with Retrak and Hope for Children Australia to identify underprivileged and marginalised youth for training and to gain valuable work experience. DAP funds will assist in ensuring these marginalised youth are employed through Bahir Zaf.

Youths training at Bahir Zaf Training Restaurant, which has received DAP funding.

DAP funds also supported the annual series of public lectures in Juba, South Sudan, organised by the Rift Valley Institute. These lectures are designed to promote public discussion of emerging political and cultural issues in South Sudan.

Cairo

The Australian Embassy in Cairo provided $400 000 for eight projects—one project in Sudan (Khartoum), one in Eritrea and six in Egypt. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) funded projects focused on welfare improvement for low income communities including women and activities to
support refugees in Egypt, healthcare for internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in Sudan and enhancing medical services for remote communities in Eritrea.

DAP funds supported a trachoma elimination project in Eritrea delivered by the Fred Hollows Foundation. The project is run in partnership with the Asmara College of Health Sciences to develop a comprehensive training program for surgeons to conduct surgeries in remote communities across all six regions of Eritrea.

Refuge Egypt serves refugees, migrants and asylum seekers living in Egypt who have fled their original country of nationality due to war or disaster. The Happy Child Preschool provides the foundational literacy, numeracy, and social skills for access to further education, as well as the structure and the predictability all children need and serves more than 90 children annually. DAP funding was used by Refugee Egypt to refurbish the Happy Child Preschool.

Refuge Egypt

The Chisomo project (a tailoring workshop) for school graduates of the Home of Hope Orphanage in Mchinji, Malawi focused on manufacturing re-usable sanitary pads. DAP funding covered the establishment of workshop space, sewing equipment and materials, vocational training on entrepreneurial skills and a feminine hygiene education program. The funding also provided safe and stable accommodation for the girls in training. Additional DAP funding established an emergency newborn facility within the orphanage to support families caring for babies whose mothers died during childbirth.

The Chisomo Project in Malawi – teaching vocational skills.

Harare

The Australian Embassy in Harare provided $950,000 for 30 projects in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Projects under the Direct Aid Program (DAP) focused on education, women’s empowerment, disability inclusion, health, sports and culture, and infrastructure. A particular priority in 2015-16 was vulnerable and marginalised people including people living with disability, women, children, and remote and economically disadvantaged communities.

The Chisomo project (a tailoring workshop) for school graduates of the Home of Hope Orphanage in Mchinji, Malawi focused on manufacturing re-usable sanitary pads. DAP funding covered the establishment of workshop space, sewing equipment and materials, vocational training on entrepreneurial skills and a feminine hygiene education program. The funding also provided safe and stable accommodation for the girls in training. Additional DAP funding established an emergency newborn facility within the orphanage to support families caring for babies whose mothers died during childbirth.

The Chisomo Project in Malawi – teaching vocational skills.

Lisbon

The Australian Embassy in Lisbon provided $166,000 for 23 projects in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on basic and vocational training/education, environmental protection, good governance, health, income generation, poverty reduction, rural development, sanitation and water management.

One project in Cabo Verde purchased materials for a school garden as an educational tool thus creating awareness of environmental protection. A project in Guinea Bissau purchased and distributed 500 birth delivery kits and provided technical training
on maternal and child health to appointed local community representatives. In São Tomé and Príncipe, DAP funds purchased life vests, GPSs and ovens to improve the working conditions of local fishermen and female fishmongers.

**Madrid**

The Australian Embassy in Madrid provided $24,000 for a project in Equatorial Guinea, the only Spanish-speaking nation in Africa. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) project, implemented by health NGO, FUDEN, has funded the purchase of new and improved surgical and clinical equipment at Malabo Regional Hospital.

**Nairobi**

The Australian High Commission in Nairobi provided $1,010,000 for 34 projects in the East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia and Burundi. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on women’s empowerment, stronger economic development and strengthening people-to-people and institutional links with a focus on gender equality and disability inclusiveness, child protection and environmental sustainability.

One DAP project in Kenya funded the purchase of a laser machine for glaucoma and cataract treatment at the Kwale Eye Centre.

Youth unemployment is a considerable issue in Uganda, as it has the youngest population anywhere in the world. The R.A.I.S.E. project in Uganda received DAP funds to provide youths in Kampala with practical and financial skills to make them more employable as well as mentoring to assist them with life skills. The R.A.I.S.E. Program is an acronym for:

- R – Reap what you sow
- A – Aspire to be the best you can be
- I – Invest in your future
- S – Start now
- E – Education is the key to success

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**Ambassador Rayner and project coordinator Arlindo Morais inspecting a school garden project in Cabo Verde.**

**Osvaldo de Negri Raffo, FUDEN’s Coordinator-General for Projects for Africa handed over hospital equipment funded by DAP to Malabo Hospital administration.**

**Students in the DAP funded R.A.I.S.E. project in Kampala, Uganda participate in a group discussion.**
Improving education outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa – one desk at a time

It’s cheap, light and portable, with the name of a famous Nobel Prize laureate on it – it’s a Tutudesk. A practical solution to a shortage of classroom desks for more than 95 million school children across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Tutudesk provides a strong, stable surface that can be used anywhere. Students can study on Tutudesks while sitting cross-legged on the classroom floor or under a baobab tree. It’s a simple idea that simply works.

Recognised as an award-winning South African innovation, the Australian Government is supporting the Tutudesk campaign, which aims to deliver at least 20 million desks to young students in poverty-stricken regions by 2020. Through the Direct Aid Program, 4000 students received a Tutudesk in 2015–16.

‘We must no longer accept a child’s educational experience being prejudiced by the lack of a most basic piece of educational infrastructure – a classroom desk,’ said Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the patron of the Tutudesk campaign.

‘I went to school where there were no desks. We sat on benches and when teachers asked us to write, we knelt down on the floor and used the benches we had been sitting on as desks,’ said the Archbishop.
In the northernmost province of Limpopo, which has the highest level of poverty in South Africa, the Australian High Commissioner Adam McCarthy handed over 280 Tutudesks to students at Mpoko-Maloka Combined School.

With 1.5 million already in the hands of children across the country, Tutudesks have significantly improved the learning conditions of South African students. ‘They all come to school because there are no shortages of desks,’ added Miss Molokome, a Grade 7 teacher.

The desks belong to the students. At the end of the day the kids can take them home. ‘The learners are doing their homework now that they have something to write on,’ said Kubeka, a Grade 4 teacher.

Independent research shows the use of a Tutudesk not only improves the student experience but the education outcome as well – from participation in classwork to homework grades and test scores. ‘Marks are higher because of improved handwriting,’ said Mbily, a Grade 3 teacher.

The benefits of making education more accessible for children across Sub-Saharan African cannot be underestimated, one desk at a time.

**Port Louis**

The Australian High Commission in Port Louis provided $420,000 for 14 projects in the Indian Ocean Rim - Madagascar, Mauritius, Rodrigues (a semi-autonomous Outer Island of Mauritius) and Comoros. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on supporting women’s economic empowerment, people with disability and health and education.

This included supporting a training program, using both Australian and local expertise, which encourages women entrepreneurs in Mauritius, Rodrigues Island and the Seychelles to grow their existing enterprises, develop opportunities and help them overcome barriers, allowing them to move from informal to more formal sectors, or for example, into export markets. The program will be expanded to Madagascar and Comoros in 2016-2017.

Another project helped set up a workshop in the Honey Department of Care-Co training centre in Rodrigues Island to train people with disability in making honey by-products. In Comoros a medical laboratory has been set up to assist with community health initiatives.

**Pretoria**

The Australian High Commission in Pretoria provided $922,000 for 19 projects across the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on education and skills development, as well as social and economic empowerment of disadvantaged groups.

The Cricket School of Excellence (CSE) in Cape Town was funded to hold regular cricket coaching clinics.
in the townships that not only provided top-level coaching, but also donated quality equipment to the resource poor townships. The High Commission began its collaboration with CSE in November 2015 when the youth crew of the sail training ship STS Young Endeavour docked in Cape Town and participated in a cricket clinic in Khayelitsha.

Reaching an audience of more than 41,000, the program encouraged students to join in and perform interactive science-based experiments, creating explosions, making rockets and setting things on fire.

The performers spent time with local teachers, training them in new and engaging teaching practices to get students excited about science.

Primary school kids from surrounding schools participate in a cricket clinic funded by DAP, Cape Town

DAP also funded a wheelchair accessible gym and skills development centre at a care facility in South Africa where an active disability program was initiated by an Australian occupational therapist during her volunteer placement under the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program.

DAP partnered with Questacon and the Australian National University to bring a travelling roadshow of scientists to schools in Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia.

Dr Graham Walker from ANU inspiring kids by making learning fun.
In 2015-16, $3.47 million was provided for 146 projects in South East Asia through our diplomatic missions in Bali, Bangkok, Dili, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Phnom Penh, Yangon and Vientiane.

Bali

The Australian Consulate-General in Bali funded 10 projects in the poorer areas of the Indonesian provinces of Bali and Nusa Tenggara Barat (NTB), totalling $120,000. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on promoting gender equality and sustainable economic growth, and improving health, sanitation and the quality of life of people with disability.

With DAP funding, Bali Sports Foundation (BSF) obtained tools and machinery to manufacture sports wheelchairs for athletes with disability to offer them sporting opportunities. BSF also taught workers with disability to make the wheelchairs – the skills that will support Indonesian athletes to compete in the 2018 Asian ParaGames in Jakarta.

In Nusa Dua, DAP funded the upgrade of R.O.L.E. Foundation’s facilities for training disadvantaged young women for a career in the hospitality industry. The foundation works with hotel and business partners to provide students with practical work experience. Graduates from its program normally secure permanent employment with its partners, while some have started their own businesses.

In Lombok, DAP funding helped Jage Kastare Foundation establish a permanent charity shop to sell used clothing, toys and recycled products. The foundation uses the proceeds to fund scholarships for underprivileged students. Its new shop, which opened in May 2016, also provides spaces for local community members to learn English, art and recycling methods.

Jakarta

The Australian Embassy in Jakarta provided $413,000 for 15 projects in Indonesia - several of them in eastern Indonesia, the least developed region in the Indonesian archipelago. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects promoted sustainable
development, women’s empowerment and poverty reduction, supported people with disability, and improved the livelihood of women and children.

DAP funded a Nusa Tenggara Association project, which aims to raise the incomes of rural villagers and improve food security in East Nusa Tenggara, one of Indonesia’s poorest regions. The project will enhance the production technology and marketing of cocoa, cashews and vegetables – their main cash crops. It also seeks to increase the production of maize – the main staple for most households.

Through the Bintangs Australian Rules Football Club/AFL Indonesia, DAP funded an expanded Indonesian AFL development program, which will facilitate AFL clinics for boys and girls in orphanages and schools across Jakarta over the next 12 months. The project aims to build program management capability and skills, and to develop and mentor sports teachers in delivering the clinics. The funding will also be spent in obtaining sports equipment and training kits, and on improving sporting grounds and facilities for child safety. The clinics will showcase the Australian sport and promote health and fitness.

Bangkok

The Australian Embassy in Bangkok provided $365,000 for 22 projects in Thailand’s disadvantaged areas. The projects funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP) promoted gender equality, supported inclusive economic growth, and improved the quality of life for people with disability, health and sanitation.

In Thailand’s deep south, troubled by a long-running Malay-Muslim separatist insurgency, a DAP project helped lift the spirit of the youth and build social cohesion through art and sporting events. In Pattani Province, DAP supported Saiburi Looker, a community group, to organise skateboarding and street art exhibitions, as well as community concerts. During Reconciliation Week 2016, the southern Thai-Malay-Muslim street artists joined Australian Indigenous performers and Bangkok hip-hop dancers in a two-day workshop to share their cultures and experiences. The program culminated in a final hip-hop performance for a broad Thai audience with the Malay-Muslim street art as the backdrop.

A DAP project brings together the Indigenous Australian artists and their Malay-Muslim Thai counterparts from Thailand’s troubled deep south region.

In the neighbouring province of Yala, another project provided vocational training to disadvantaged community members and people with disability. Participants collected used cooking oil to sell to the Community Biodiesel Enterprise, which transformed it to biodiesel with the equipment paid for DAP funding.

Dili

Under the Direct Aid Program (DAP), the Australian Embassy in Dili funded four projects in Timor-Leste to a total value of $240,000. The DAP projects promoted gender equality through women’s economic empowerment and political participation,
and supported youth leadership and security sector reform.

Through the Asia Pacific Support Collective – Timor-Leste, a leading women’s advocacy NGO, DAP funded the economic empowerment of vulnerable women at the grassroots level. The project helped women become more active in decision-making in communities, reducing their vulnerability to violence.

Working with another women’s NGO, Fundasaun Patria, DAP sponsored a project to encourage women’s participation in town and village councils. Fundasaun Patria provided women in five municipalities with training in leadership, the political system and the electoral process to prepare them for standing in elections. Two hundred women expressed their intention to run as candidates in town and village council elections scheduled for October.

Women of Tapo Memo’s chicken farming group in Maliana, Timor-Leste learn to improve their business through a DAP project.

Hanoi

Through the Direct Aid Program (DAP), the Australian Embassy in Hanoi funded 21 projects, totalling $400,000. Grants were provided to projects in six northern Vietnamese provinces, with a particular focus on Ha Giang, one of Vietnam’s poorest and most remote provinces, where limited foreign development assistance is provided.

The DAP projects focused on gender equality, environmental sustainability, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and were directed toward the most in-need communities, particularly ethnic minorities.

In the mountainous Dong Van District, where water is scarce, DAP funding provided six environmentally friendly bio-toilets for students and teachers at Ho Quang School. The easy-to-use, low-maintenance toilets offer a safe and economical solution to poor sanitation, which poses a high risk of gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases to children and the community. The project also assisted in developing communication materials on hygiene and sanitation.

Also in Dong Van, another DAP project helped Dao and Hmong ethnic minority women preserve traditional embroidery and tailoring skills, which bring them a stable monthly income of 3 million Vietnamese dong (AUD175) from selling their products to tourists. The project benefits poor women, who are vulnerable to human trafficking as a result of their quest for better economic opportunities across the border in China. The women will soon train others in the area.

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Ho Chi Minh City

The Australian Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City provided $340,000 for 18 projects in nine
provinces in southern Vietnam. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects targeted greater economic engagement for poor communities, human resource development and support for ethnic minorities.

With DAP funding, the University of Medicine, Pham Ngoc Thach (UPNT), a public university in District 10, purchased clinical equipment to set up an optometry training centre, which also offers low-cost services to the community. The centre allows practical training in optometry for UPNT students. A Rapid Assessment for Avoidable Blindness Study estimates that three per cent of people aged 50 or over suffer bilateral blindness, where the number of eye care professionals is inadequate.

Kuala Lumpur

The Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur funded nine projects in Malaysia totalling $149,000. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on the health and education of disadvantaged community members, particularly women, children and those affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as providing disaster relief.

DAP funded PACOS, a community-based group based in Sabah, to provide assistance in researching and building water supplies in Kg Tmbatuon and Kg Kiau, which had been ravaged by the Mt Kinabalu earthquake in June 2015. PACOS installed gravity water systems in the two villages and conducted training on water management.

The Chin Student Organisation, which provides education and support for the Chin ethnic refugee children from Myanmar in Malaysia, received DAP funding for two projects. One of them supplied new Maths and English textbooks and eye glasses. In the other project, two Australian nurses carried out health screenings, including dental checks and treatments, and provided hygiene packs to students.

Manila

The Australian High Commission in Manila funded 10 Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects across the Philippines, totalling $260,000. The projects focused on women’s empowerment, water and sanitation,
health care, emergency and disaster preparedness, and education and training for children and people with disability.

Bantay Bata 163, the social welfare program of ABS-CBN, the largest media company in the Philippines, received DAP funding to produce audio-visual modules to train children to be better prepared for natural disasters. In partnership with the Philippine Department of Education, the modules will be used to deliver emergency preparedness training, which covers typhoons, floods, earthquakes, fire safety and basic first aid, at 20 elementary and high schools in the Cebu and Davao provinces.

With DAP funding, the Fairplay for All Foundation constructed a concrete sports court for regular training for the youth in Quezon City’s Payatas dumpsite, one of the country’s largest and poorest slums. The availability of the court is expected to double the number of children playing football regularly with the Payatas Football Club to 200. It will also provide other sporting opportunities, including volleyball, badminton and Zumba.

Phnom Penh

The Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh provided $450,000 for nine projects in Cambodia. The project, funded under the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on the welfare of women, children and people with disability, health, sanitation, economic empowerment and the environment.

DAP funded a project run by Action on Disability and Development International Cambodia, an international NGO, to help women and girls with disability access justice and support services. It aims to build the capacity of local authorities to address violence against women and girls.

Through Samatapheap Khnom Organisation, a local NGO, another DAP projects seeks to ensure effective social service delivery to vulnerable people, particularly women and children. It aims to help them access social protection, justice and social services from the government, private sector and other non-government organisations.

Yangon

The Australian Embassy in Yangon provided $312,000 for eight projects in Myanmar. The projects, funded through the Direct Aid Program (DAP), targeted capacity building, poverty reduction, health, rural development, cultural preservation and gender equality.

Through the Aust-Myanmar Mission Association, DAP funded the reconstruction of a vital bridge over Manipur River at Gamlai in remote north-western Chin State – the country’s poorest region. Heavy rains and flooding in July 2015 destroyed the...
widely used bridge, cutting off local communities from access to markets and services.

DAP also funded Partners Myanmar’s Garden Towers project, designed to strengthen food security and raise household incomes in Myanmar’s impoverished ‘dry zone’ in the arid centre of the country. The towers, made from 150 litre plastic barrels with holes cut in the sides to allow the planting of crops, utilise an integrated compost system to fertilise the plants. Taking only a tiny space, they have helped improve the livelihood of landless farmers, the elderly and people with disability.

After two months, ‘Garden Towers’ provide a steady supply of vegetables for poor and vulnerable villagers.

Vientiane

The Australian Embassy in Vientiane provided $422,000 for 20 projects across eight provinces in Laos. The projects funded under the Direct Aid Program (DAP) targeted children’s education, wildlife conservation, ecotourism, cultural and heritage conservation, women’s empowerment, and support for victims of human trafficking and people with disability.

DAP supported the Elephant Caravan in Xaboury and Luang Prabang as part of the celebration of Luang Prabang’s 20 years as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The caravan travelled nearly 500 kilometres on foot throughout the provinces to conduct conservation awareness activities and distribute educational materials, whose production was funded by DAP.

DAP also funded the Lao Men Standing Up and Speaking Out campaign, which encourages men to take action to eliminate violence against women. During the campaign, 10 prominent Lao male personalities called for an end to the violence on TV, posters and videos.

As part of the celebration of Luang Prabang’s 20 years as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, DAP supported an elephant caravan to raise awareness of conservation issues.

Colombo
The Australian High Commission in Colombo provided $390,000 for 14 projects across eight provinces in Sri Lanka and Maldives. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on education, health care, sanitation, small-scale infrastructure and support for people with disability.

DAP funded the construction of a vocational training centre for disadvantaged women in Batticaloa District and the delivery of English language and computer training for children from low-income and chronic kidney disease-affected families in Polonnaruwa District.

DAP funding was also used to build a physiotherapy and speech unit for the Sith Sewana Mentally Handicapped Children’s Development Society. The new building will benefit children with disability in 14 villages in Monaragala District.

Dhaka
The Australian High Commission in Dhaka provided $441,000 to 12 projects in Bangladesh. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects placed emphasis on women’s empowerment, education, health, water and sanitation, and people with disability.

DAP funding helped women with disability from Barguna District receive training in garment production and the marketing of their products. Another DAP project in Dinajpur District promoted
the rights of survivors of acid attacks and the improvement of their livelihoods.

DAP also funded the revamp of Dhaka University’s clinical service centre to upgrade its psychological services towards international standards, and the provision of educational support materials to children with disability.

Islamabad

The Australian High Commission in Islamabad provided $450,000 for 14 projects across Pakistan, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh provinces and the northern regions of Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. The projects, funded under the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on human rights, education, health, water and sanitation, capacity building and disaster relief.

Through Inspire Pakistan, a non-profit NGO, a DAP project helped raise human rights awareness among university students in Islamabad by supporting young ‘Human Rights Ambassadors’ and disseminating information about the rights of women and children through a radio campaign.

DAP also funded the upgrade of an operating theatre at St Elizabeth’s Hospital in Hyderabad and the purchase of a dialysis machine for the Ameer Welfare Dialysis Centre in Punjab. Another DAP project engaged the Pakistani youth on climate change issues through a media campaign and debates, ahead of the 2015 Paris Climate Change negotiations.

Kabul

The Australian Embassy in Kabul provided $150,000 to five projects in Kabul, Baghlan, Ghazni and Bamyan provinces of Afghanistan. Funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), the projects focused on health, small-scale infrastructure, economic empowerment, youth, gender equality and poverty alleviation.

To help young people find jobs in construction-related industries, DAP funding was used to provide training in wiring and electrical work for students above the age of 18 from an orphanage. The skills, which they can use throughout their lives, are in high demand in Kabul.

In Bamyan, DAP funded the production of a three-part play, which highlighted the harmful consequences of early and childhood marriages. The project applied performing art as a medium to raise the awareness of domestic violence and the disadvantages of early and forced marriages and their negative impacts on the society.
With DAP support, Revival of Professional Skills for Afghanistan (ROPSFA) train young men in wiring and electrical work.

Kathmandu

The Australian Embassy in Kathmandu provided $600,000 for 17 projects in Nepal. Funded under the Direct Aid Program (DAP), the projects gave priority to healthcare, capacity building and the empowerment of women and people with disability.

DAP funded the Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation Nepal to provide training in basic psychosocial counselling to community members in the three earthquake-affected districts of Sindhupalchowk, Kavre and Okhaldhunga. Such counselling services were very limited in these areas.

DAP funding also helped the National Federation of the Deaf Nepal update and publish new Nepali sign language books, posters and dictionaries, which were distributed at schools for the deaf across the country for free. The publications had not been updated for over a decade.

New Delhi

The Australian High Commission in New Delhi provided $552,000 to support 20 projects across northern India and Bhutan. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on the empowerment of women and people with disability, health and hygiene, sanitation, and education.

In Odisha State, DAP funded the Indian NGO Divya Jyoti Mahila Vikash to set up a compostable sanitary napkin production unit. By training local women in its management and operation, the project seeks to develop their entrepreneurial skills along with delivering an essential feminine hygiene education program.

DAP also sponsored a two-day workshop designed to build the capacity of NGOs to support people with mental health disorders and raise the awareness of mental health challenges, services and facilities. Representatives from 20 NGOs across New Delhi and Rajasthan and Uttarakhand states attended the workshop.
Live rock giving life to India’s reef

Along the southernmost tip of India in Tamil Nadu State, a project supported through the Direct Aid Program (DAP) is helping revitalise the coral reef through the implantation of live rock made a long way from home.

The project, run by Participatory Learning Action Network and Training (PLANT), is using innovative technology developed by the Australian company Baba Marda to revive threatened ecosystems.

The man made limestone rocks are modelled off formations occurring naturally along Western Australia’s coast. The rocks are placed in areas of unhealthy reef and over time algae forms and produces coral growth.

‘Three tons of live rock has been purchased from Baba Marda for this purpose,’ said Dr John Suresh, Executive Director of PLANT. The project is also building the technical know-how of the local fisherman.

Local fishermen in Mohabilipuram, Tamil Nadu, receive training on Live Rock germination techniques from PLANT program Coordinator.

‘PLANT has conducted an awareness program and trained fishermen on making and deploying live rock in the near-shore waters,’ said Dr Suresh.

There are five fishing villages and up to 500 families living along the coast who will benefit from the regeneration of the reef and Tamil Nadu’s burgeoning coastal tourism sector. Ultimately the hope is that these rocks will transform into vibrant reef ecosystems, boosting fish stocks and coral growth, and improving the livelihoods of local villagers.
Chennai

The Australian Consulate-General in Chennai provided $209,000 for nine projects in southern India. Funded through the Direct Aid Program (DAP), the projects promoted women’s empowerment and economic diplomacy objectives, and supported disaster recovery.

DAP funding was used to purchase emergency relief supplies following severe flooding in southern India. DAP projects also provided optical assessments and equipment to disadvantaged children and essential health services to low-income women.

Through Single Teacher Schools, a non-profit organisation, DAP funded a project to establish local community schools to provide basic education to children, who are unable to access mainstream schooling. The majority of them are children with disability. DAP also sponsored breast cancer screening checks at Penn Nalam Hospital on International Women’s Day.

Mumbai

The Australian Consulate-General in Mumbai provided $300,000 for 16 projects in the Indian states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. Funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), the projects covered water management, sports, education, health and support for people with disability.

Apnalaya, a non-profit organisation, used DAP funding to implement a sports intervention program for disadvantaged girls residing near Mumbai’s dumping ground. The project encouraged the girls to compete in a professional tournament of Kabaddi, an indigenous sport, to enhance their self-esteem, promote gender equality and reduce school dropout rates. The tournament was broadcast across India.

Through the NGO Society for Nutrition, Education & Health Action (SNEHA), DAP funded a child health and nutrition program focused on reducing malnutrition among children up to three years old from Mumbai’s slums. The project held nutrition awareness workshops for mothers on International Women’s Day.

Photo: The Australian Consulate-General, Mumbai

Women and children from Dharavi slums, Mumbai, take part in an Anaemia awareness workshop held on International Women’s Day, as the Australian Consul-General Mark Pierce (seated right) looks on.
In 2015-16, $2.955 million was provided to 112 projects in South America, Latin America and the Caribbean through our diplomatic missions in Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Lima, Mexico City, Port of Spain and Santiago de Chile. These Direct Aid Program projects covered 29 countries.

**Brasilia**

The Australian Embassy in Brasilia funded 20 projects in Brazil totalling $340,000. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) supported projects which engaged marginalised groups in their broader community, helped disadvantaged groups to generate sustainable income through their own skills and abilities, and specifically used sport for development.

The Pão de Queijo factory (Brazilian cheese bread factory) project will generate income for the Maria Teixeira (EMT) School and the wider school community. The school is a pioneer in Brazilian special education and 30 per cent of its school population has special needs. DAP funds purchased kitchen equipment and utensils for the cheese bread factory.

The Social Circus Project is an initiative of Ser Educational Institute and UNINASSAU University in Recife which aims to educate, entertain and empower young people with down syndrome and intellectual disability through circus activities. The initiative has a demonstrable impact on participants’ confidence, motor skills and community engagement. DAP funds covered circus equipment and uniforms.

The Cricket Project brought together teenagers from Brasilia’s satellite suburbs and the rural town of Poços de Caldas in Minas Gerais. Many of the participants had never left their town before attending this DAP sponsored cricket tournament. The project aimed to build their confidence, assist with developing networks and bring attention to cricket and the role sports can play in development. DAP funds covered the costs of the tournament and cricket gear, which continues to be used by both groups as a legacy of the event.

*Photo: Brazilian Cricket Association*

**Medals for the Cricket Project held in Brasilia, Brazil, in May 2016.**
Buenos Aires

The Australian Embassy in Buenos Aires funded 18 projects totalling $524,000 in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. In all three countries, Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on youth and childhood development, gender equity and good governance. DAP funds in Paraguay and Uruguay also supported projects focused on education and the environment.

One project provided funding to the Fundacion Le Ralos, Argentina which works with children and young people with disability that severely limit their mobility and independent functioning. Through DAP funding the foundation equipped a multi-sensory room in their therapeutical education centre, to better engage and stimulate the children who attend the centre.

Two DAP projects supported Emergency Flood Relief in Buenos Aires Province and in the Litoral region (Corrientes and Entre Ríos Provinces, Argentina), helping communities to recover from this year’s floods by running workshops to build residents’ capacity to manage flooding in coming years.

Lima

The Australian Embassy in Lima funded nine projects totalling $199,000 in Peru to support vulnerable groups in the areas of economic empowerment through the promotion of tourism and gastronomy, education, and community development through sport and inclusion of vulnerable groups, especially women and people with disability.

DAP funded ASPHAD (Association for People with Different Abilities, run by an Australian priest) for the construction of three rooms on the flat roof ASPHAD Centre in El Planeta, Lima Cercado (Peru). One room is to be a cooking and baking workshop, another is for psychological therapy, and the third for teaching music and songs.

In line with Australia’s commitment to addressing violence against women and girls, DAP’s contribution also helped repair and procure items to improve the living conditions of the women and children hosted by the safe home Hoy por ti, Mujer run by volunteers with the support of TACIF (Centre
for Training and Family Research). Household items and the repair of doors and cupboards were covered with DAP funds, as well as the repair of six sewing machines and the purchase of a food cart that will improve living conditions and help the women to become more independent.

**Mexico City**

The Australian Embassy in Mexico City funded 20 projects totalling $702,000 in Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The projects selected for Direct Aid Program (DAP) funding placed emphasis on women’s equality, rural and agricultural development, food security, strengthening civil society and human rights.

DAP funds supported a project in Mexico which is implementing new Australian technologies to extract honey. The funds enabled the importation of 16 flow hives in the south region of Mexico (Veracruz).

Migrants from Central America, including thousands of unaccompanied minors fleeing violence, poverty and in some cases persecution, are continuing to embark on perilous journeys north. DAP granted funds to Centro de Dignidad y Justicia to equip a centre that assists migrants when they transit through Mexico, and Instituto de Derechos Humanos to create publications and 3000 handbooks addressed for human rights defenders and migrants. The handbooks will be distributed in several shelters for migrants in Mexico.

**Port of Spain**

The Australian High Commission in Port of Spain funded 33 projects totalling $885,000 across 10 Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname). The Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on areas including food security and agriculture, community health, coral reefs and fisheries, economic development and poverty alleviation.

In Jamaica DAP funds supported Stewards of Creation, a program designed to encourage public involvement in coral reef conservation. The Montego Bay Marine Park Trust has used DAP funding to increase young people’s awareness of Jamaica’s vital and vulnerable marine environment and encourage them to work together to adopt sustainable eco-friendly practices and support Jamaica’s coral reefs. It is being replicated elsewhere in the Caribbean with DAP support.

A second DAP project in Guyana, the Quarrie Village Water Conservation Community Sanitation &
Health Project, enabled the residents of the indigenous communities of Quarrie Village and Moco Moco Mountain Foot region to obtain a safe, healthy and reliable source of water. The Special Envoy for Human Rights Philip Ruddock visited the project in early July and was impressed by the facility. Not only did residents benefit from receiving a supply of potable water, they also were able to benefit from having the community pavilion supplied with electricity, using solar panels atop the pavilion.

High Commissioner Pilbeam, Special Envoy Ruddock and community members inspect refurbished water tank in Guyana village.

Santiago

The Australian Embassy in Santiago funded 13 projects totaling $300,000 in Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) supported projects focused on empowering vulnerable communities and assisting in their sustainable development.

In Colombia, through the Federacion Nacional de Cafeteros (National Coffee Farmers Federation) in Risaralda, DAP funds purchased coffee cherry de-pulping machines to families in a rural, low-income area of Colombia’s world-famous coffee producing region. Prior to receiving the machines, the families were required to de-pulp the coffee cherries by hand, an arduous and time-consuming process. The machines provide the families with a more efficient method to conduct this process, dramatically improving their productivity and income growth capacity. The improved efficiency and sustainability of coffee producing activities will allow the farmers to achieve a better work-life balance, provide more time for education and recreation for family members and increase their physical recovery time, measurably improving their quality of life and opportunities for development.

Coffee farmers and their children in Risaralda, Colombia, with de-pulping machine funded through DAP.
Sustainable stoves making a difference to daily life

In the Oaxaca Sierra, the Mazatec live in remote communities high up in the mountains of southern Mexico. Here the task of collecting drinking water and wood for cooking and heating can take all day, and is often the responsibility of the Mazateca women.

Through the Australian Government’s Direct Aid Program, The Hunger Project is providing fuel-efficient ecological stoves and rainwater tanks to improve the community’s access to these basic necessities and it’s making a big difference.

In the village of Piedra de La Luz, Australian Embassy staff met with local project teams which are comprised of mostly young women. These women have run the project from the start – from initial community consultations right up to organising the construction teams. Here each stove has been designed to fit each family’s cooking implements, encouraging full take up of the new system.

Local families saw the benefits right away. Huts were no longer filled with smoke, as the stoves direct the fumes outside and the dramatic reduction in woodcutting is saving both time and the rainforest habitat that surrounds the village. Now that the community can store water there is more available for drinking and irrigation, reducing the threat of the hotter, dryer seasons that bring droughts to the area.

Alongside the practical benefits, the project has ignited a sense of achievement and community spirit.

As one woman told Embassy visitors ‘when I started this the men used to say women couldn’t build a stove. But now we know that we can, and together this community can achieve anything it wants’.

Local community members discuss the construction and location of their new stoves.
In 2015-16, our diplomatic missions in Apia, Honiara, Nauru, Noumea, Nuku’alofa, Pohnpei, Port Moresby, Port Vila, Suva, Tarawa, and Wellington provided $2.230 million for 143 projects in the Pacific region.

Apia

The Australian High Commission in Apia, Samoa, provided $220,000 for 11 projects. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on education, women’s empowerment and healthcare.

On Savaii Island, DAP funded the purchase of building materials for the reconstruction of steps in Satuitatu Village to allow easy access between its lower and upper levels. The old steps, built more than 20 years ago, had deteriorated so much over time that they were becoming a safety hazard.

To improve the livelihood of Vaiafai villagers, DAP funded the renovation and upgrade of their fresh water pool. The pool sourced from underground water is used by the Vaiafai community and its neighbouring villages for washing and bathing, while underground water from a small reservoir is for drinking and cooking.

The Australian High Commissioner Sue Langford cuts a ribbon at the opening ceremony of Satuitua Steps on Savaii Island.
Honiara

The High Commission in Honiara, Solomon Islands, provided $300,000 for 18 small-scale projects in six of Solomon Islands’ nine provinces. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on water, sanitation, income generating opportunities, energy and women’s empowerment.

DAP funding provided the Honiara Council of Women with the equipment to run the inaugural Women’s Innovation Expo, which created economic opportunities for women and girls. The Expo allows the unemployed to earn an income, contributing to Solomon Islands’ economic growth.

To address water shortage issues at the local clinic and school, a DAP project purchased 22 water tanks for the more than 1000 community members of Mt Alasa’a. Access to fresh water is a constant challenge for many isolated rural communities in Solomon Islands.

Nauru

The Australian High Commission in Nauru provided $15,000 for four small-scale projects in Nauru. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), placed emphasis on promoting a healthy lifestyle and community cohesion, and providing seed funding for small business activities.

DAP funding provided an initial investment for the Community Night Market, now held every fortnight at different locations around Nauru. Under the project, which is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among local women, young people and artisans, the necessary equipment was purchased, including lighting marquees, tables and chairs. The market brings together the Nauruans and refugees and supports micro-businesses.

DAP also provided financial support for the Bright Futures Play Centres to purchase woodworking equipment to run a toy-making workshop and train the unemployed youth under the guidance of qualified carpenters. The projects aimed to produce quality wooden toys for children up to four years old and help the unemployed youth develop trade skills.

Noumea

The Australian Consulate-General in Noumea supported two projects on the small islands of Wallis and Futuna, which is an Overseas Territory of France, through the Direct Aid Program (DAP). The two projects received DAP funding totalling $29,000.

In Futuna, DAP funded the development of a water treatment system and the purchase of the required equipment for a tsunami shelter. The local
community held fundraising events to cover the cost of building the shelter in Olu Village. The other DAP project helped develop a new sports discipline to fight obesity in Wallis and Futuna by providing badminton equipment to the Uvea Badminton Association.

Nuku’alofa

The Australian High Commission in Nuku’alofa, Tonga, provided $120,000 for 19 projects. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects promoted a healthy lifestyle, the empowerment of women and girls, skills development, agricultural innovation, education and the quality of life of people with disability.

Through a DAP project, the Bank of South Pacific (BSP)’s car park was converted into an after-hours netball court and a public space. BSP covered the cost of levelling and resurfacing the ground while DAP funds were used to mark the full-size court, install netball hoops and provide lighting.

To support agricultural innovation, DAP funded the installation of a weather station in Tupou Agriculture College, with the Tongan Meteorological Service providing training and maintenance. Its operation is aimed at addressing the impact of climate change on crop production.

Pohnpei

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei provided $186,000 for four projects in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The project, which received funding from the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on women’s empowerment, health and sanitation.

DAP funded a climate resilience project to install rainwater catchment and storage systems in 16 vulnerable communities in low-lying coral atolls in Chuuk State.

Another DAP project promoted the awareness of domestic violence and gender equality through sporting activities. It provided an outlet for girls and women to participate in sports for a healthy lifestyle. According to the 2000 Census, only 12 per cent of girls under the age of 18 in FSM participated in sports.

Port Moresby

The Australian High Commission in Port Moresby funded ten Direct Aid Program projects totalling $225,000 in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The projects targeted gender equality, education, community-based livelihood, the environment and health.

Through Send Hope not Flowers, an Australian charity, DAP funding supported the Safe Motherhood Intervention Program (SMIP) to help
reduce maternal death in Milne Bay. The program encourages mothers to have a supervised delivery at a healthcare centre.

DAP funding was used to purchase two birthing models to train rural healthcare staff in emergency obstetrics and purchase baby bundles, which contain basic supplies for mothers and their newborns. A peer-reviewed article, published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in June 2015, noted that the SMIP initiatives have contributed to a 78 per cent reduction in the maternal death rate in the province.

Community members of Aguan Village, Papua New Guinea, welcome a helicopter delivering baby bundles purchased with DAP funding.

Port Vila
The Australian High Commission in Port Vila supported 21 projects on eight islands across Vanuatu to a total value of $199,000. The projects, funded through the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on water, sanitation and hygiene, the empowerment of women and girls, sports for development, youth and people with disability.

In Torba Province, DAP funded the construction of a market house in the capital village of Sola on Vanualava Island, which is expected to become the main commercial centre in the remote northern part of the island country. The Torba Provincial Government has also made financial contributions to the project.

In Port Vila, DAP financially supported the Rainbow Disability Theatre Group, whose performers are people with disability, to stage a play to promote community awareness against domestic violence. The play has been performed in 20 communities on the island of Efate.

Suva
The Australian High Commission in Suva provided $800,000 for 32 projects in Fiji and Tuvalu. The projects, which received Direct Aid Program (DAP) funding, focused on post-Tropical Cyclone Winston disaster relief, child welfare, and the empowerment of women, girls, youth and people with disability.

As part of Australia’s boarder response to TC Winston, DAP financially supported local NGOs, Catholic Women’s League Fiji and Empower Pacific, to distribute family relief and sanitation packs to women, children and people with disability, whose homes were destroyed by the storm. DAP funding also provided the National Youth Council of Fiji with folding tables, plastic chairs, tarpaulin, weather board and materials to construct a footpath in their learning area.

Through Save the Children Fiji, DAP helped establish child friendly spaces in evacuation centres and temporary shelters for about 5000 children in 36 hard-hit areas. The spaces provide a protected...
environment, in which children can participate on organised activities, play, socialise and learn as they rebuild their lives.

Harrison Kautoga (right), a senior counsellor from Empower Pacific, provides counselling to villagers affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston at a temporary shelter in Fiji.

Tarawa

The Australian High Commission in Tarawa funded 16 projects totalling $110,000 in Kiribati. The projects receiving Direct Aid Program (DAP) funding supported water storage and harvesting, food security and health initiatives. Potable water supply is a critical vulnerability in most of Kiribati. The provision of water tanks to communities on the outer islands addresses significant needs.

One project funded the purchase, transportation and installation of a water tank for rainwater harvesting at a Primary School in Beru island, one of the dry, southern islands of Kiribati, to provide clean potable water for the students, staff and the surrounding community.

Wellington

The Australian High Commission in Wellington funded six projects on the Cook Islands and Niue totalling $26,000. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects placed emphasis on education and mental health and wellbeing.

In the Cook Islands, a DAP project provided materials and supplies for the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programme at Te Kainga O Pa Taunga, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre, on Rarotonga. Te Kainga operates its rehabilitation program three days a week and is the only NGO providing mental health services in the Pacific Island nation.

Another DAP project in Niue provided laptop computers and software to the Hakupu Learning Program (HRP) to build e-learning capacity for local school-aged children. HRP is a community-based initiative to improve the academic performance of children in Hakupu Village in the remote Pacific Island nation.

Students from Hakupu Village, Niue, sharpen their literacy skill using laptop computers provided by a DAP project.
In 2015-16, $1.302 million was provided to 50 projects in the Middle East through our diplomatic missions in Amman, Baghdad, Beirut, Malta, Ramallah, Riyadh and Tehran. These projects covered eight countries.

Amman

The Australian Embassy in Amman funded five projects in Jordan, totalling $320,000. With funding from the Direct Aid Program (DAP), the projects provided assistance to both Jordanians and refugees in the areas of health, education, youth and women’s empowerment.

In the Emirati refugee camp, which houses several thousand Syrian refugees, a DAP project helped improve the livelihood of the youth through Capoeira, a Brazilian martial art performed with music for physical education. The sport makes young men and women become more active to counter the psychological effects of severe trauma and distress.

Through World Relief Germany, a humanitarian organisation, DAP funded a project to train local volunteer teachers to run a weekly football and life skills club for Syrian and Jordanian teenage girls from low-income communities. The program includes interactive sessions on health, communications/conflict resolution, violence against women and women’s empowerment.

Baghdad

The Australian Embassy in Baghdad provided $95,000 for three small-scale projects in Iraq. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on education and the welfare of internally displaced women.

DAP funded the establishment of a community childcare facility in the historic and intellectual centre of Baghdad, known for its bookshops and cafes. The area was a target of terrorist attacks.
over the past decade and is being rebuilt. The facility boasts a puppet theatre, a library and a small playground.

DAP also funded two income-generating training programs for internally displaced women. In Salah Al-Din Province, one program offered healthcare training for women who had lost their spouses in conflicts. The women were trained in midwifery and basic medical treatments. The other program trained women in Diyala Province to bake and sell their breads and pastries in local communities. The skills will help increase food production and improve their standard of living.

Women, who have lost their spouses in armed conflicts, receive basic healthcare training under a DAP project in Salah Al-Din Province, Iraq.

**Beirut**

The Australian Embassy in Beirut funded 10 small-scale projects in Lebanon under the Direct Aid Program (DAP). The projects, which had a combined value of $300,000, targeted the health, education and alternative energy sectors.

In partnership with the Lebanese Association for Rural Development, DAP funded the renovation of the Karama Medical Centre and the purchase of a range of new laboratory equipment. The project will improve the quality of healthcare services provided to disadvantaged people in northern Lebanon’s Akkar District.

DAP financially supported the refurbishment of solar panel units, water tanks and piping in temporary shelters at Lebanon’s Nahr el Bared Palestinian refugee camp, directly benefitting 128 families. DAP also funded the purchase of medical equipment for nine mobile medical units run by Caritas Liban, a humanitarian organisation, which provides healthcare services in rural Lebanon.

With DAP’s financial support, solar panel units have been refurbished at Lebanon’s Nahr el Bared Palestinian refugee camp.

**Malta**

The Australian High Commission in Malta funded two projects in Tunisia for $32,500. The projects, supported by Direct Aid Program (DAP) funding, placed emphasis on human rights, education and the environment.

‘Tunisia Recycling,’ a DAP project, trained public school students in better recycling practices, tracking and logistics. The project aims to expand to include 300 new households in Greater Tunis.

The other DAP project, organised by UNESI, an NGO, provides training in making leather goods for young people with mental disability. The project will equip them with professional skills and enable
them to obtain a diploma from the Tunisian Agency for Vocational Training.

Ramallah

The Australian Representative Office in Ramallah provided $340,000 for 17 small-scale projects across the Palestinian Territories, including Gaza and rural areas of the West Bank. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), targeted children and youth, education, women’s empowerment, people with disability and health.

DAP funded the Women’s Bone Health Mobile Osteoporosis Screening Campaign aimed at improving the health outcomes of marginalised women. The campaign, conducted by the Palestinian Osteoporosis Prevention Society, provided free tests to identify women at high risk of osteoporosis with references for treatment.

DAP funding was also used to renovate a playground at YWCA Ramallah to provide a safe environment for children to participate in fun and educational activities, while their parents, mainly mothers, attend YWCA occupational training courses.

Photo: Australian Representative Office, Ramallah

A children playground at YWCA, Ramallah, has been renovated with DAP funding.

Riyadh

The Australian Embassy in Riyadh provided $50,000 for two projects in Yemen. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on the welfare of children and their parents, and women’s empowerment.

Through Creative People Solutions (CPS), an NGO, DAP financially supported the ‘I will be fine’ program, which trained 1,400 children and parents in Aden to overcome post-traumatic stress. Using its creative measuring and analysing process, CPS reported an attitudinal improvement of 30 to 40 per cent after 10 hours’ training.

DAP also funded a Care International project to distribute 50 vocational toolkits to the Yemenis to set up their businesses to generate incomes to support themselves. The two DAP projects provided essential support to young Yemenis, who are caught in the ongoing civil war affecting a large part of the country.

Tehran

The Australian Embassy in Tehran provided $165,000 for 11 small-scale projects in Iran. The projects, funded by the Direct Aid Program (DAP), focused on education, water and sanitation, children, women’s empowerment and people with disability.

Through the Society for the Protection of Working and Street Children, a DAP project provided school equipment, sanitation infrastructure, stationery and basic nutrition for young Afghan refugees in Karaj City.

DAP financially supported the Omid-e Mehr foundation to furnish a safe house for vulnerable young women in Tehran. DAP also funded its Peer Education Program, which offers vocational training and psychological support for women who have been sexually or physically abused.
In 2015-16, Direct Aid Program funding of $892,000 was provided to 62 projects in Europe through our diplomatic missions in Ankara, Belgrade, Canakkale, Kyiv, Moscow, Rome and Vienna. The projects covered 16 countries.

Ankara

The Australian Embassy in Ankara funded 12 projects in Turkey totalling $207,000. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) is helping address humanitarian hardship for Syrian refugees, particularly women and children, as well as disadvantaged Turkish groups.

According to UNICEF, more than half of Turkey’s 2.7 million registered Syrian refugees are children – and nearly 80 percent of them are not in school. Across the wider region, UNICEF estimates that half of school age Syrians – 2.8 million children – have no means of accessing education. Through DAP funds, the Australian Embassy Turkey has been able to assist Syrian related projects on a local level.

One DAP project provided Turkish language training for Syrian children and young people to help them adapt to life in Turkey. The funds were spent on school furniture and educational equipment for three schools established for Syrian refugees, namely Kademmon, Syriac and Al Maarife schools. The equipment is being used at the schools where Syrian children are taught Turkish and other courses according to the Turkish curriculum.

Canakkale

The Australian Consulate in Canakkale provided $50,000 for five small-scale projects in the provinces of Canakkale and Tekirdag, in European and Western Anatolian Turkey and close to the Anzac battlefields. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) focused on promoting the role and status of
women, and improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable.

DAP supported a project to purchase equipment and furniture at the Golden Ages Elderly Assistance Centre. The centre provides accommodation, medical services and training in basic daily life needs to disadvantaged elderly people in Canakkale province.

Mayor of Canakkale and Australian Consul to Canakkale launched the Golden Ages Elderly Assistance Centre Canakkale DAP project.

Belgrade

The Australian Embassy in Belgrade provided $165,000 for 24 projects in Serbia, Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The Direct Aid Program (DAP) focused on supporting empowerment of women and girls, vulnerable groups and media freedom projects.

In Belgrade a project focusing on physiological empowering and training of female victims of violence encouraged them to move forward and learn techniques to restore their roles as parents. Workshops on parenting were conducted by psychologists twice a week over a period of three months with more than 100 women attending the training.

In Bitola (FYROM) the Samurai Karate Club joined with Lootus agency to train vulnerable groups (including people with disability, single mothers and victims of violence) in the English language, computer skills and office skills. Over a three month period 30 classes were organised for each topic and overall 60 people from vulnerable groups attended the training. The project was received with great enthusiasm in the community.

Kyiv

The Australian Embassy in Kyiv provided $187,000 for four projects in Ukraine. The Direct Aid Program (DAP) funded humanitarian projects addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable.

Funding was provided to the Advanced Radiological Centre project at the national paediatric specialised hospital ‘OKHMATDYT’ in Kyiv. Using DAP funds, the project purchased technology to improve X-Ray quality, especially for procedures involving infants and those cases assessed as most difficult. A room was equipped with ultrasound technology, removing the need to transport patients to another building to access this technology. A system for saving and filing radiological pictures electronically was also purchased, which will provide an opportunity to develop a digital archive. The new equipment will improve diagnostic outcomes for those patients suffering challenging diseases and will enhance the quality of care to children.

Ultrasound technician at the Advanced Radiological Centre at the OKHMATDYT national paediatric specialised hospital in Kyiv, treats a young patient with equipment purchased with DAP funds.

A DAP project implemented through the Caritas Sambir-Drohobych Diocese of the Ukrainian Greek-
Catholic Church provided practical training courses for internally displaced women. The project seeks to economically empower women and improve livelihood security through an emphasis on practical training courses.

Moscow

The Australian Embassy in Moscow provided $139,000 for four projects in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The projects selected for Direct Aid Program (DAP) funding targeted support for people with disability, women in rural communities, and key infrastructure improvements.

The remote Ak Syy sanatorium in Kyrgyzstan received DAP funding to provide internet connectivity and tele-medicine facilities for children with disability, principally for those suffering cerebral palsy. In the long term, the tele-medicine service at Ak Syy will act as a hub to provide disability training to other internet-connected disability centres in Kyrgyzstan, with the purpose of upskilling local practitioners.

In Tajikistan DAP funding is supporting the Pasor Hydroelectric Power Station Reconstruction project. The hydro unit will provide critical electricity needs to several villages affected by an earthquake which struck Gorno Badakhshan region in late 2015. DAP funding also went towards a carpet weaving project in Vahdat in Tajikistan, designed to increase income generating activities and entrepreneurial skills of disadvantaged women from the local Tajik-Afghan community through the provision of looms and training.

Rome

The Australian Embassy in Rome provided $95,000 for six projects in Albania which focused on assisting disadvantaged groups, including addressing women’s empowerment, unemployed youth and child welfare.

The Direct Aid Program (DAP) provided funding to assist women of 15 different farming families in the Zall Bastar region of Albania to develop their beekeeping capabilities. The project equipped unemployed women in the community with ongoing practical beekeeping skills and resources, giving each family the opportunity to improve their livelihoods. The families have produced quality organic honey for sale at local markets in the region, providing added benefits for the local economy.

DAP also provided funding to the Organization for the Support of Albania’s Abandoned Babies (OSAAB) to conduct a study that statistically tracked
Ambassador Rann visits the Organization for the Support of Albania’s Abandoned Babies (OSAAB) in Tirana, which DAP funded to conduct a study tracking over 700 abandoned babies that were cared for by OSAAB in the last 20 years.

Vienna

The Australian Embassy in Vienna provided $50,000 for seven Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Kosovo, focusing on the most vulnerable groups, namely youth, women and people with disability. These projects delivered health and education benefits for the target groups, as well as broader community-building outcomes.

One project supported the work of EDUS, an NGO that provides special education to children with varying levels of developmental delays. With the support of DAP funds from the Australian Embassy in Vienna in addition to international partners UNICEF and the United Nations Women's Guild (UNWG) Vienna in the past four years, EDUS has expanded their early intervention programs for younger children with developmental delay or disability, focusing on assessment and capacity-building tutorials. The project also included workshops for teachers and parents, and awareness raising campaigns on World Autism Day.

A second project in Mostar, BiH, helped to fund a range of classes designed to teach life skills to young people with intellectual disability, including cooking, social skills and self-advocacy. The project concluded with a Food Festival for the local community.
In 2015-16, the Direct Aid Program provided $558,000 for 20 projects in North Asia through our diplomatic missions in Beijing (covering China) and Seoul (covering Mongolia).

Beijing
The Australian Embassy in Beijing funded 12 projects across 12 provinces/autonomous regions in China totalling $380,000. Direct Aid Program (DAP) projects focused on rural development, improvement of water quality and safety, support for people with disability, and greater access to health, education and legal aid.

In Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, DAP funding helped the Kuklem Uyi Drop-In Centre assist women and children affected by HIV. It supported community-based activities, including counselling for children with learning or personal difficulties, vocational training and providing guidance on child nutritional needs.

In Shaanxi and Sichuan provinces, DAP financially supported an International Bridges for Justice (IBJ) project to provide information on legal aid and access to justice to some of China’s most vulnerable youth. IBJ, a Geneva-based NGO, worked with Chinese lawyers and law students to conduct legal publicity events at a juvenile correction centre and high schools.

Seoul
The Australian Embassy in Seoul funded eight projects in Mongolia totalling $180,000. Supported by Direct Aid Program (DAP) funding, the projects targeted education, health and people with disability.

In eastern Ulaanbaatar, a DAP project helped create a friendly learning environment in a special school for autistic children. A new curriculum was developed and training was given to teachers on
teaching children with autism. Classrooms were also refurbished and equipped with new resources.

In Khovd Province, the DAP funded Health Education and Behaviour Modification project delivered awareness programs on infectious and non-infectious diseases to 720 families in rural areas, where access to public health education is limited.

Photo: National Autism Association of Mongolia

Children with autism in sensory room established with DAP support.
In 2015-16, our multilateral missions in UN New York, Geneva UN, Geneva WTO and Vienna UN provided $1.6 million for 29 International Development Fund (IDF) projects. Many of these projects focused on supporting developing countries to participate in international meetings.

New York UN

The Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in New York provided $493,000 for seven multilateral projects. The projects supported key issues across the UN agendas such as counter-terrorism, biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, small arms and light weapons, and gender mainstreaming. The projects had a strong development focus and served a range of development objectives across regions.

One IDF project supported training for Pacific Island NGO representatives who promote women’s human rights, to participate in the annual United Nations meeting on the Commission on the Status of Women.

Geneva UN

The Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva funded 11 multilateral projects totalling $398,000. The projects supported key issues priorities across the UN agenda including human rights, gender, humanitarian assistance, health, disarmament and arms control.

IDF projects promoted economic and social progress and development objectives by working towards disarmament and arms control, improving the quality of protection responses in humanitarian action, and capacity building. Four projects advocated for the protection and promotion of human rights, with including one project supporting efforts towards the universal abolition of capital punishment. Another project produced four publications aimed at providing information to and building the capacity of, human rights defenders and democracy activists worldwide.

Geneva WTO

The Australian Permanent Mission to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva provided $458,000 for four multilateral projects. The projects supported negotiators from least-developed and developing countries in their engagement with key issues across the World Trade Organization agenda. One International Development Fund (IDF) project funded the attendance of ministers and delegates from Pacific Island countries at the WTO’s 10th
Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, ensuring the voice of the Pacific was heard at this critical event.

Vienna UN

The Australian Permanent Mission to the UN in Vienna provided $252,000 for eight multilateral projects. The projects supported key issues across the UN agenda on peaceful uses of atomic energy, prevention of environmental crime, addressing people trafficking and improving drug control capacity in South East Asia.

South East Asia is a main trafficking hub for synthetic drugs, a large portion of which eventually end up in the Australian market. The wide-spread drug trafficking business threatens to undermine overall developmental outcomes in the region. South East Asia has also been identified as lacking adequate access to pain relief medicines. The International Development Fund (IDF) supported the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to deliver technical capacity building for drug control authorities from many South East Asian countries, to reduce trafficking and improve efficiency in control systems to ensure adequate access to necessary medical pain relief.

IDF also supported International Atomic Energy Agency projects in South East Asia and the Pacific. IDF support has assisted projects which monitor radiological effects in the marine environments of the Pacific, advance palliative care and pain relief for cancer patients through the use of nuclear medicine in South East Asia and the Pacific, and work to meet the needs of Pacific Island member states. In cooperation with Port Vila, DAP supported attendance by a delegate from Vanuatu to the IAEA General Conference to facilitate its formal membership of the IAEA and initiate contacts with the Agency.

Photo: Thai Narcotics Control Office.

Training seminar for South East Asia country representatives held in Bangkok with IDF support.
ENGAGING WITH THE DIRECT AID PROGRAM

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.

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.

For more information please refer to the DAP guidelines, which are available at:


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.

For Australian mission contact details see:


Who can apply for IDF support?
The IDF supports multilateral agendas that Australia wishes to advance and aims to support ODA-eligible projects that, inter-alia, enable developing countries to participate in international meetings.

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 (at the link above) that manages the IDF program for further detail.