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1 Introduction

1.1 Australia's strategic approach to aid in Africa

'Looking West: Australia's strategic approach to aid to Africa' outlines the Australian Government's proposed strategy for its aid program in Africa.

1.2 Executive summary

Africa is more stable, peaceful and prosperous today than it was a decade ago and its economic outlook continues to improve. Many African countries have an abundance of natural resources which have the potential to drive economic development.

However, Africa still faces major development challenges. It remains the world's most impoverished continent and African countries comprise 33 of the world's 49 least developed countries. Sub-Saharan Africa is also the region in the world most off track to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the target of 2015. Natural disasters and civil conflicts negatively impact on the development efforts of many African countries. Climate change also looms as a major threat to food security and water resources. The African region is also very diverse, with development challenges and achievements uneven.

The Australian Government is committed to broadening and deepening its engagement with African countries and institutions, including through increased development assistance. This is informed by Australia's interests as a middle power, situated on the rim of the Indian Ocean, in the stability, security and prosperity of the region.

'Looking West: Australia's strategic approach to aid to Africa 2011–2015' aims to help reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development in Africa by supporting progress against meeting the MDGs. Australia's aid program is principally focused on three sectors—maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and agriculture and food security. These are areas where:

- progress is most off track
- Australia has particular strengths
- strong African frameworks exist for achieving effective results.

The aid program will also continue to help to build African countries' and institutions' human resource capacity. Natural resource management, where Australia has particular expertise, is another area where help will be provided, to ensure the benefits of natural resources flow to improved development outcomes.

Australia will also continue to be responsive to humanitarian crises including in Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan.

To maximise the impact and effectiveness of Australia's aid program to Africa, support in the three priority sectors will focus on sub regions, with some direct support to select countries. Assistance in maternal and child will be provided in east Africa (including the Horn), water and sanitation in southern Africa and

agriculture and food security assistance—largely through partnerships with African institutions—in sub regions across Africa.

In addition to these priority sectors, broader assistance will be provided across the continent under a phased expansion of the Australia Awards for Africa (scholarships) and through targeted capacity building.

This strategy aligns with the priorities of African countries and institutions. The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) will deliver the Australian Government's aid program to Africa largely in partnership with multilateral and regional organisations and bilateral donors, as well as non-government and community based organisations. As a modest donor operating in a crowded donor environment, aligning priorities and working in partnership are important for both extending the reach of the program and ensuring effectiveness of aid.

2 Critical issues in Africa

2.1 Development context in Africa

A number of African economies have grown at unprecedented rates in recent years. Economic management has improved, but Africa remains the world's most impoverished continent. The latest International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Update¹ forecasts accelerated growth in 2010 and 2011 of 5% and 5.5% respectively in Sub-Saharan Africa (while noting considerable variance across countries). Thirty-three African countries are classified by the United Nations as least developed countries—that is, countries characterised by extreme poverty, economic vulnerability and low indicators in nutrition, health and education. The African region is also highly diverse; development progress has been uneven and gains are fragile.

Among all regions of the world, Sub-Saharan Africa is furthest from reaching the MDGs. Some 400 million Africans—almost half of Africa's population—live in absolute poverty, on less than US\$1.25 a day. Even before the global financial crisis, most Sub-Saharan African countries were well below the trend needed to halve poverty by 2015. The global financial crisis impacted upon the African region as a whole, reducing estimated gross domestic product growth to only 1.1% in 2009, down from an average of 5% in the preceding year. In 2009, hunger rose 6% in Sub-Saharan Africa as a result of the global financial crisis.

Progress has been particularly slow on reducing poverty and hunger (MDG 1), improving health, notably for women and children (MDGs 4, 5, and 6) and improving access to clean water and sanitation (MDG 7). Sub-Saharan Africa (together with South Asia) has the highest proportion of malnourished people in the world, with 1 in 3 suffering from chronic hunger. The 10 countries with the least progress in the world towards reducing infant mortality (MDG 4) are in Sub-Saharan Africa: 1 in 6 children in Sub-Saharan Africa dies before the age of five. The Horn of Africa in particular has some of the world's starkest indicators for child and maternal mortality and poor overall maternal and child health. Some 40% of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa lack access to safe drinking water. Gender equality is also of concern with fewer female students than males advancing to secondary and tertiary education. Employment opportunities for women are also limited.

Development differs across Africa. Countries with stable government and good governance, such as Ghana and Botswana, have made real progress in reducing poverty and increasing children's access to education. However, other countries affected by conflict or poor governance have made little progress in reducing poverty, and in some instances gone backwards.

Natural disasters, conflicts and epidemics detract from the development efforts of many African countries. Climate change looms as a growing threat: changes in rainfall and increasing temperatures could have a major effect on agriculture production and access to water supplies. It could also increase the burden of disease. These issues can constrain long-term improvements in poverty reduction and threaten to reverse many of the gains made throughout the previous decade.

¹ World Economic Outlook (WEO): Recovery, Risk, and Rebalancing, October 2010, International Monetary Fund

About two-thirds of African countries have mining activities underway and there is further potential in this sector. Where governance is weak, natural resource abundance can become more of a curse than a blessing, generating and fuelling conflict and human rights abuses, destroying ecosystems, and having an adverse effect on progress towards the MDGs. Well managed, the mining sector could contribute substantially to growth and progress towards the MDGs in Africa.

2.2 African Governments' development plans or priorities

Many African governments and institutions have launched ambitious plans to tackle poverty. Twenty-three African countries have signed a compact under the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program—an African Union initiative helping African countries achieve economic growth through agriculture-led development. The initiative advocates for the allocation of 10% of national budgets to the agricultural sector and aims for an average annual growth rate of 6% in agriculture by 2015. In July 2010, African Heads of Government launched a campaign to tackle maternal and child health issues by reaffirming their commitment to allocating 15% of national budgets to health. These countries also want to promote a more stable economic, social and political environment to encourage investment and support sustainable development. Without this, halving absolute poverty and achieving the other MDGs in a reasonable timeframe is unattainable.

African countries recognise the need to develop their human resources to underpin and sustain these efforts, and harness their natural resource wealth in ways which contribute to robust, inclusive economic growth. African governments have made progress on improving the transparency and effective regulation of the mining sector. More than 20 African countries are now candidates or compliant with the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative².

2.3 Donor engagement on the development challenges

Total official development assistance (ODA) to Africa reached US\$44 billion in 2008, of which US\$33 billion came from 10 donors—the United States, European Union, the World Bank Group, France, Germany, United Kingdom, the African Development Bank Group, Japan, Netherlands, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

These donors have a long history of working with African countries on a wide range of challenges. They continue to be Africa's main development partners.

In 2008, total ODA to Africa was roughly allocated as 40% to social sectors (for example, education and health), 32% for economic development (for example, physical infrastructure and production) and 10% to meet humanitarian needs (for example, for food aid and response to emergencies).

Historically, the Australian Government's assistance to Africa has been small compared to major donors, and geographically targeted at east and southern Africa. Australian ODA to Africa before 2008 represented less than 1% of total ODA to Africa and around 3% of total Australian ODA flows. Even with an expected increase in flows, Australia's contribution to Africa will remain comparatively modest. Therefore, to maximise the impact and effectiveness of aid to Africa under this strategy, assistance will focus on areas

² The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is a coalition of governments, companies, civil society groups, investors and international organisations that supports improved governance and transparency in resource-rich countries through the verification and full publication of company payments and government revenues from oil, gas and mining

where Australia has particular strengths, and to countries in which Australia's aid program is best able to make a difference.

2.4 Improving donor coordination and supporting African-led development

Stronger coordination amongst donors and support for African-led development efforts are vital for improving development effectiveness in Africa. Evaluations of donors' development efforts in Africa have highlighted that programs not supported or owned by Africa governments are often ineffective.

The Australian Government is aligning its assistance with the development priorities of African countries and institutions. As part of this approach, the Government is establishing new partnerships with African institutions, including the African Development Bank, the African Union and regional agricultural organisations such as the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WE CARD), Biosciences East and Central Africa (BecA) and the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA).

Under this strategy, Australia is also working collaboratively with other donors to reduce the potential for duplication and fragmentation of aid efforts and to maximise the effectiveness of the Government's aid program.

3 Strategic priorities for the Australian aid program in Africa

3.1 The strategic focus of Australia's aid program

Australia's aid to Africa is expected to increase in the period of this strategy (2011–15). The Australian Government is committed to increasing its total ODA to 0.5% of gross national income (GNI) by 2015–16 and to increasing the GNI share going to least developed countries to 0.15%. This is particularly relevant to Australia's projected assistance to Africa, given that African countries comprise 33 of the world's 49 least developed countries.

The Australian Government's increased engagement in Africa, of which aid is an important component, reflects the growing Government interest and level of public interest in Africa. Australia's increased aid to Africa reflects the Government's commitment to being a good international citizen and to supporting global efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. The focus on addressing poverty is guided by the MDGs.

As a middle power with global interests, situated on the rim of the Indian Ocean, Australia has a strong interest in the security, stability and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region, including Africa. During the past 50 years, there has been civil war in 24 out of 48 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the mid-1990s, Africa was the most war-torn continent in the world. The level of conflict across the continent is undermining African countries' progress towards the MDGs and affecting the security and stability of the broader region.

The African region is also, however, becoming an increasingly significant economic force; trade in Australian goods with Africa is valued at close to \$5 billion, having grown at more than 6% annually over the last decade. Australian resources companies are estimated to have current and prospective investments of about \$20 billion in African countries.

Australia has the experience and expertise to help African countries respond to many challenges and effectively use their resources to achieve development outcomes.

3.2 Proposed approaches and ways of working

3.2.1 Geographic focus

To maximise the impact and effectiveness of support to the three priority sectors supported by this strategy, AusAID will focus assistance on sub regions in Africa, working with development partners to support regional initiatives and providing direct assistance to a select number of countries. The approach has been informed by factors including:

- development needs of the sub regions
- the capacity to work with trusted partners

- the need to build on the success of past investments
- the level of commitment of governments to address development challenges.

In maternal and child health, assistance will be provided in east Africa (including the Horn), with direct assistance initially provided to Ethiopia, Tanzania and southern Sudan. In water and sanitation, assistance will be provided in southern Africa, with direct assistance initially provided to Malawi and Mozambique. In agriculture and food security, assistance will largely be provided through partnerships with African institutions, in sub regions across Africa.

To respond to the strong demand by African governments and institutions to build their human resource capacity, an increasing number of African countries across the continent will have access to Australia Awards (scholarships) and other targeted capacity building support under this strategy. Other global programs, for example the AusAID – Non Government Organisation (NGO) Cooperation Program, will also have broader geographic coverage across Africa.

3.2.2 Development outcomes

Based on consultations with African governments and institutions about their potential and development challenges, and an assessment of where Australia can best contribute, the overall outcome of 'Looking West: Australia's strategic approach to aid to Africa 2011–2015' is to: 'contribute to improvement against Africa regional targets for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1), reducing child mortality (MDG 4), improving maternal health (MDG 5) and increasing sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (MDG 7)'.

The strategy has three objectives, as described below.

Objective one: *to help selected African countries progress MDGs in areas where Australia has particular strengths, where progress is seriously off track and where strong frameworks exist for achieving effective results.*

A significant part of Australia's aid program to Africa will contribute to development efforts in water supply and sanitation; maternal and child health; and agriculture and food security.

a. Maternal and child health in east Africa

Africa accounts for half of the world's under-five deaths. One in six children in Sub Saharan Africa dies before the age of five. The lifetime risk of maternal death is 1 in 26, 4 times higher than in Asia and more than 300 times higher than in industrialised countries. Africa's progress on reducing infant mortality (MDG 4) and improving maternal health (MDG 5) has been particularly slow.

AusAID's support for maternal and child health focuses on east Africa (including the Horn). This reflects: the significant development needs of this sub region, with very poor maternal and child health indicators; the strong commitment of a number of governments in the region to addressing the issue; and the capacity to build on the success of past investments.

- East Africa has some of the worst maternal mortality indicators in Africa, with 1400 and 2000³ maternal deaths per 100 000 live births in Somalia and Southern Sudan respectively.
- Despite persistently poor maternal and child health indicators, several governments in sub-Saharan Africa—including Ethiopia—have achieved promising improvements due to strong political leadership, conducive donor environments and well-coordinated health strategies which prioritise maternal and child health.
- Australia already has long-standing and effective partnerships in Africa in maternal and child health, including with the Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.

This strategy will support health workforce development, particularly midwifery training, basic obstetric and newborn care and family planning.

Support will be provided through:

- Direct assistance to select countries, initially Ethiopia, Tanzania and Southern Sudan. This includes supporting partner government efforts to strengthen delivery of health services and provide complementary assistance through NGOs to help communities beyond the reach of government. AusAID will also continue its long-standing partnership with Ethiopia’s Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital.
- Continued work with trusted multilateral partners and developing new partnerships with regional organisations, such as the African Union, to support its continent-wide advocacy on maternal and child health, including the Maputo Plan of Action and Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa.

b. *Water supply and sanitation in Southern Africa*

Some 40% of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa lack access to safe drinking water and close to 70% lack access to basic sanitation. Water and sanitation is essential for sustaining life and livelihoods. Improved access will reduce negative health impacts from diarrhoeal disease and cholera, with those most at risk being: women, children and the poor. Improved accessibility also helps stimulate economic growth and increase educational opportunities.

AusAID’s support in water and sanitation focuses on southern Africa. This focus has been informed by the development needs of the sub region and it builds on the success of past investments and the capacity to work with trusted and proven partners.

- Improvement against sanitation MDG targets is especially poor in some southern African countries. Mozambique has the lowest reported water and sanitation coverage in east and southern Africa (after Ethiopia, which already receives significant assistance for water and sanitation from other sources). Only 17% of the population in Mozambique have access to effective sanitation and 47% access to clean water. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and one of the most densely populated in Sub-Saharan Africa. More than 52% of the population live below the poverty line. While reported water and sanitation coverage in Malawi is relatively high for the region, quality of services is low, with coverage of water services especially low in towns and market centres.

³ 2006 Sudan Household Survey

- AusAID has a history of providing assistance to water and sanitation in southern and east Africa, including through Australian NGOs for community-level activities.
- AusAID has identified countries committed to improving their own situation, for example those with frameworks such as a coordinated government-owned sector strategy and investment plan. Malawi and Mozambique both have sound frameworks through which AusAID can support development. Both of these governments are also taking the lead in effectively coordinating donor support in water and sanitation.
- The African Development Bank and the World Bank have been selected as initial partners given their significant programs in southern Africa and scope for engaging in areas where the need to improve water and sanitation is greatest.

Support will be provided through:

- Direct assistance to a number of countries in the sub region, with an initial focus on working with the African Development Bank in Malawi and Zimbabwe and the World Bank in Mozambique. Assistance is targeted to improving access to clean water and basic sanitation in small towns and market centres which are often neglected in favour of development in urban and rural areas. Support will include rehabilitation and expansion of critical infrastructure and capacity building of local governments and service providers to ensure they are able to effectively manage, operate and regulate water and sanitation services.
- Assistance for regional initiatives aimed at strengthening water and sanitation sector policies, practices and resource management. AusAID will continue supporting the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program and the African Development Bank's African Water Facility to help select African countries build their capacity to provide sustainable water and sanitation services. AusAID will also work with the German government to help African countries address trans boundary water issues in southern Africa.
- Assistance to NGOs to undertake community-level water, sanitation and hygiene initiatives, raise awareness of user rights and strengthen public accountability mechanisms.

c. Agriculture and food security

Sub-Saharan Africa is the most food insecure region in the world with 1 in 3 people suffering from chronic hunger. Rising food prices, increased fuel costs and the global recession has worsened the food security situation. Agricultural development and improved food security are fundamental to Africa's ability to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1).

In responding to this need, AusAID will provide support under this strategy to lift agricultural productivity, improve the functioning of rural markets and enhance the resilience of communities most vulnerable to food security. This support will be closely aligned with the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and show Australia's international expertise in dry-land and semi-arid farming systems.

Support will be provided through African regional organisations playing a key role in improving food security in sub regions across Africa, in areas and with organisations where Australia can have the most impact:

- In West Africa, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) will work with the CORAF/WECARD where its expertise is well placed to improve food security in countries with a similar climate to Australia.
- In east and central Africa, CSIRO will provide support to BecA, which wants to take advantage of Australia's significant experience in biosciences to address African food security challenges;
- In southern and east Africa, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research's (ACIAR) experience in dry-land farming will help farmers in drought-affected areas through a maize-legume food security project which supports research, testing and developing farming techniques;
- In east and southern Africa, AusAID will develop a partnership with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, which wants to use Australian experiences in domestic agricultural reform, commodity analyses, and trade policy development.

Complementing these initiatives will be Australian assistance in building the resilience of communities vulnerable to food security.

Objective two: *to help build the human resources capacity of African countries, particularly in areas and ways where Australia has recognised strengths and expertise.*

Australia has world-class education and research institutions working across a range of fields; best practice public sector institutions and public policy frameworks; extensive experience in harnessing the development potential from natural resources; and a wealth of agricultural expertise in areas of common interest with Africa (such as dry-land farming).

Recognising that human resource capacity is critical to Africa's long-term development and central to meeting all of the MDGs, under this strategy, AusAID will support development in this sector predominantly through scholarships, the Australia – Africa Partnerships Facility and volunteers.

d. *Australia Awards (scholarships)*

Australia Awards support long-term human resource development. They equip Africans with the skills and knowledge needed to drive change and influence policy. They also build the long-term capacity of African countries to plan for and implement reform and meet their development challenges, particularly to accelerate progress towards the MDGs.

Under this strategy, Australia Awards will be provided:

- to African students in increasing numbers, up to 1000 per annum by 2012–13
- in a range of areas that reflect the priorities identified by partner countries and where Australia has expertise
- to increasing numbers of women scholars
- to an increasing number of countries across the continent as the program expands.

e. *Australia – Africa Partnerships Facility*

The Australia – Africa Partnerships Facility enables AusAID to respond effectively to development challenges specific to African governments and where Australia has expertise. The facility allows an exchange of skills and knowledge with a broad range of African countries, including in the areas of natural resource management and public policy (for example, trade policy, economic

governance and public sector reform). It adopts a flexible approach and so can respond to the needs of African countries through supporting partnerships between Australian and African organisations, short-term training and exchange programs, workshops and research.

The Australia – Africa Partnerships Facility operates across Africa. It has limited resources and so decisions on where to provide support, what support to provide and how to provide it is determined by several factors, including whether:

- there is strong partner country demand for the assistance
- the environment is conducive to reform
- assistance could have a measurable impact
- there is an established mechanism, or partners, through which assistance can be delivered
- AusAID has the resources to effectively manage the proposed assistance.

f. *Volunteers*

Australian volunteers contribute to development in Africa in tangible ways. By sharing skills and knowledge, the Australian Government's volunteer program helps build the capacity of individuals, organisations and communities in partner countries. Australian volunteers also create links and partnerships and raise public awareness of development issues and the aid program in the Australian community.

The Australian Government has supported volunteers since the 1960s. In 2010, Australia supported 36 volunteers in 8 African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland). Under this new strategy (2011–15), Australia will increase the number of volunteers and expand its volunteer programs into more countries. Placements will increasingly be aligned with Australia's areas of priority in Africa—including in water and sanitation, maternal and child health and food security.

The Australia Awards, Australia – Africa Partnerships Facility and volunteers program will broaden and strengthen Australia's links with a growing number of African countries. They will improve AusAID's understanding of specific challenges and help identify possible areas for future aid engagement. They will also complement and support the three priority sectors at the core of Australia's aid to Africa.

Objective three: *to help African countries manage and respond to major threats to development and to take advantage of broader economic opportunities.*

g. *Humanitarian action*

Humanitarian pressures in Africa continue to escalate due to political crises, armed conflict, impacts of climate change, high food prices and the global financial crisis. In recent years, Australia has increased support for humanitarian emergencies and protracted relief efforts in Africa, primarily channelled through international agencies and Australian NGOs.

In recognition of ongoing needs, humanitarian support continues to be important to Australia's aid to Africa. However, under this strategy support will be more targeted to ensure the effectiveness and relevance of this assistance to African priorities. Australia's humanitarian assistance, while retaining flexibility to provide support for emergency responses, will be

increasingly directed at longer-term recovery efforts in priority countries, particularly those affected by protracted crises such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and Sudan. AusAID will continue to move beyond humanitarian assistance to support economic recovery and restoration of basic services in Zimbabwe. AusAID will also seek a greater role in monitoring the effectiveness of Australia's contribution to humanitarian partners, and will work closely with other donors to ensure efforts are aligned.

h. *Peace building*

Australia was elected to the Peace Building Commission in 2010 and has provided financial support and personnel to support peace efforts in Burundi and Sierra Leone, including assistance for elections and youth employment generation. This builds upon support for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, for UNICEF to support the protection of children in conflict zones, and for the African Union to develop guidelines on the protection of civilians. Under this strategy, the Australian Government will continue to consider ways to support international peace-building efforts in Africa.

i. *Natural resource management*

Effective management of natural resources, particularly in mining, has the potential to contribute to economic development in African countries. Between 2000 and 2010, it is estimated that US\$200 billion accrued to African governments in oil revenue alone. About two-thirds of African countries have major mining activities underway and there is significant further potential in the sector. Africa contains more than 30% of global mineral reserves, however less than 5% of the global mineral exploration and extraction budget is allocated to African projects. Well managed, the mining sector could contribute substantially to growth and progress towards the MDGs in Africa.

As a world leader in the mining sector, Australia is well placed to help African countries overcome the challenges this sector can present.

Under this strategy, Australia's aid program will support African governments' own efforts to manage the mining sector in their countries and will seek to improve resource governance, build resource sustainability and enable resource development.

j. *Climate change*

Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, due mainly to its high dependency on natural resources and rain-fed agriculture as well as to its relatively limited technological and economic capacities. In addition to ongoing support for the Global Environment Facility, Australia is contributing to the Least Developed Countries Fund supported by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to the World Bank-led Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (which, in Africa, currently targets Mozambique, Niger and Zambia), and to the development of the Southern Africa Development Community's Climate Change Plan of Action.

During the strategy period, further adaptation and mitigation initiatives will be supported, using trusted development partners and building on existing programming in Africa (for example, in food security and water resource management).

3.2.3 Ways of working

Under this strategy, AusAID will primarily deliver assistance through partnerships with organisations that have experience or expertise in the areas of focus. This will include: established African institutions; multilateral and bilateral donors; and NGOs, community based organisations (CBOs) and Australian institutions.

This approach is based on best international practice and experience from Australia's previous aid programs, which has shown that working in partnership with others increases the impact and coverage of assistance. Partnerships:

- build relationships with other countries and organisations
- increase the reach and impact of Australia's aid program
- enable activities to be expanded with fewer resources
- support initiatives aligned with partner governments' priorities
- reduce potential for duplication and inefficiency.

Working with African institutions demonstrates Australia's commitment to African-led development and support for broader bilateral relationships in Africa. Additionally, working through international and African partners provides Australia with greater access to policy discussion and analysis.

African institutions

AusAID is aligning the sectoral programs under this strategy with the priorities of African countries through establishing partnerships with African institutions. We will continue to work with the African Development Bank in the water and sanitation sector and in Zimbabwe. Under a memorandum of understanding with the African Union we will collaborate on maternal and child health and peace building. AusAID has already established partnerships in agricultural research and market development with regional organisations including CORAF/WECARD, ACTESA and BecA.

Multilateral donors and mechanisms

AusAID has already developed effective partnerships with United Nations agencies and the International Financial Institutions in Africa to respond to humanitarian crises and support progress against priority MDG targets. The Australian Government has provided more than \$1 billion to support the United Nations World Food Programme's operations in the last 12 years, and will continue to work closely in responding to food insecurity in African countries. AusAID is working with UNICEF to address maternal and child health issues in east Africa and rehabilitate the water and sanitation sector in Zimbabwe. We will continue to work with the World Bank in the water and sanitation sector.

Bilateral donors

AusAID will continue to work with, and through, bilateral donors leading in sectors where the aid program is focused, including Germany in water and sanitation in southern Africa and the United Kingdom and South Africa in recovery efforts in Zimbabwe.

NGOs, CBOs and Australian institutions

Australian NGOs have long-standing partnerships in Africa and have played an important role in implementing community development programs on the continent. Under this strategy, AusAID will strengthen partnerships with Australian NGOs to implement community-level maternal and child health,

water and sanitation, and food security programs that complement our efforts with African Government and United Nations partners.

Australian universities and research institutions have expertise and experience in areas that are highly relevant to development needs in African countries. AusAID is partnering with the ACIAR and CSIRO to address food security needs in African countries. Under this strategy, Australian universities will continue to deliver high-quality education through Australia Awards to African students in areas identified as priorities by African governments.

Global programs

In areas where there is already significant support for Africa's development, AusAID will continue to look for opportunities to leverage Australian funding by providing assistance through global mechanisms such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Education For All – Fast Track Initiative, and support for the recently established international Alliance for Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Addressing gender equality and supporting women's development reaps disproportionate development results. Under this strategy, AusAID will ensure gender issues are integrated throughout the program, including by:

- implementing gender targets for scholarships selection processes under the Australia Awards for Africa program
- targeting women in community projects through the water and sanitation and NGO programs
- focusing on improving gender equity in health (for example: through advocating for improved maternal health in Africa, both bilaterally and by supporting the Africa Union; and through providing specific assistance to more concrete activities, such as support for Ethiopia's Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital).

The Australian Government has also committed to ensuring that people with disability are included and supported to improve their quality of life through all aspects of the aid program. Under this strategy, AusAID will engage on disability issues in Africa through policy discussions with partners and other donors to build awareness and support for disability-related issues. Our maternal and child health program will continue to address disability through training midwives, which will help to reduce the maternal health condition of obstetric fistula. AusAID will also work to improve food security, to reduce the likelihood of birth complications, disability and debilitating disease.

To complement Australia's funding to global programs to address HIV/AIDS in Africa, AusAID will integrate support for HIV/AIDS into the major programs under the strategy.

3.4 Risk management

Achieving lasting development results in Africa is challenging. Africa has a high proportion of countries characterised by extreme poverty, economic vulnerability and low indicators in nutrition, health and education. It is also a very diverse region, with differing development contexts across countries. Australia's aid faces the same generic constraints, risks and opportunities that apply to all development efforts across

the content. As a small donor with limited physical presence in Africa, these issues are amplified for Australia.

AusAID will seek to manage risks and enhance aid effectiveness through careful selection of priority sectors, development partners, frameworks and ways of working. In developing the Australian Government's approach to development assistance in Africa, AusAID has and will continue to:

- draw on the best research and practical experience to make evidence-based decisions
- promote full engagement, support and ownership of recipient countries and communities
- harness the expertise and capacities of development partners: African, multilateral, bilateral, non-governmental and community based.

3.5 Measuring Effectiveness

To implement this strategy effectively, AusAID will strengthen its capacity to organise, monitor, review and assess its aid operations and policies in Africa, in tandem with its increased aid.

Performance frameworks for the major programs under 'Looking West: Australia's strategic approach to aid in Africa 2011–2015' have been, or are currently being, developed. A performance framework drawing together the information identified in these frameworks will be developed in 2011.

Working through partners with established monitoring and evaluation systems will support easier access to performance information, without the burden of establishing separate systems.

AusAID will conduct an annual program performance report against the strategy's objectives. A mid-term review will be conducted in 2013 to guide possible amendments.