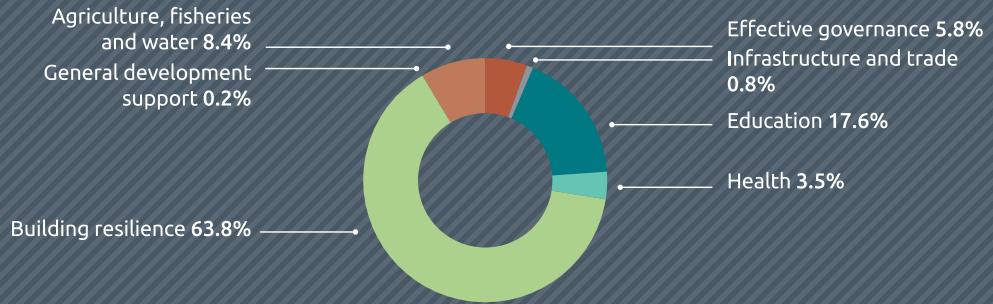


2018-19 TOTAL AUSTRALIAN ODA TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA*

\$258.5 MILLION



Australian ODA by investment priority



Program highlights



PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES WORLD BANK TRUST FUND
\$10m
 2018-19



BOTSWANA SAVANNA-BURNING PROJECT
\$3.8m
 2017-18 TO 2020-21



THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA AUSTRALIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS
329
 2018

* Total Australian ODA, from all agencies and programs, attributable to partner countries and regions in the Middle East and Africa.
 ** Includes Iraq, Syria, and other flows to the region.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Australia is promoting rules-based order in conflict-affected areas.

Australia's investments in the Middle East and Africa align with the White Paper's objective to promote international rules and stability through our humanitarian commitments in Iraq, the Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. Further, Australian Awards promote people-to-people and institutional links with Africa and the Palestinian Territories. Australia's interests and influence are broadened in the region through our development program, building Australia's reputation as a reliable partner with commercial and educational credentials.

Case study: Empowering women through education



Australia Awards-Africa Alumnus Ms Alombah conducting field practice with a trainee in Cameroon. Photo: DFAT

Women receive close to 50 per cent of Australia Awards in Africa.

Ms Eveline Ngumbi Epse Alombah, from Cameroon, is using skills gained from the Increasing the Development Impact of Agricultural Research short course to run training programs in Cameroon. The programs have trained 558 women, 433 men and 355 youth. Those who have been trained and applied the techniques for new crop varieties report that their yields have increased from 5 tonnes to about 8 tonnes per hectare.

Ms Olayeni Maryam Temitayo, from Nigeria, is applying knowledge from the Local Economic and Social Development in Extractives short course to start a mining empowerment project to improve the livelihood of women and youth.

Ms Omenwa, from Nigeria, after attending the Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries course, initiated a project to deliver training to 23 women from Nigeria's Niger Delta region, aimed at building their entrepreneurial skills and enhancing their aquaculture practices.

Ms Mazuba Mwanachingwala, from Zambia, is using her own research from her Masters of Science in Sustainable Aquaculture to show fish farmers new cost-effective approaches to develop fish feed from the by-products of locally grown crops. This project has made aquaculture a more viable option for small farmers to improve their incomes and is reducing the incidence of malnutrition for children under two years of age. The achievements of these women, and many like them, are building Australia's reputation and influence as a valued development partner.



329
awardees

ACROSS 21 COUNTRIES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND AFRICA

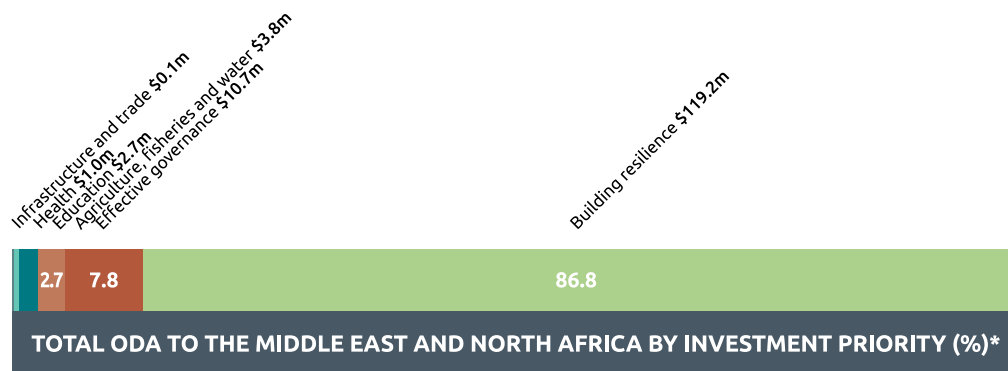


48%
females

2018
AUSTRALIA AWARDS
SCHOLARSHIPS

The Middle East and North Africa

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	20.5
Regional	3.9
Global	113.0
Other Government Departments	0.0
Total ODA to The Middle East and North Africa	137.4



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Iraq and Syria: The multi-year humanitarian packages

Australia provides generous assistance to address the impacts of the humanitarian crises in Iraq and Syria. The Iraq Humanitarian and Stabilisation Package provides support to the most vulnerable populations in Iraq and assist communities become more stable and resilient. The Syria Crisis Humanitarian and Resilience Package provides humanitarian assistance, including responses to gender-based violence, and focuses on education and livelihood activities in Jordan and Lebanon.

More information can be found in the Building Resilience section.

The Palestinian Territories

The Palestinian Territories is one of the poorest regions in the Middle East with the ever-present threat of conflict hampering economic opportunity and social development. These challenges are particularly acute in Gaza where the effects of previous conflicts are ongoing. The water and electricity situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate with the potential to compound an already concerning humanitarian situation. Economic growth in Gaza remains stagnant and the unemployment rate is 44 per cent.

The Palestinian Territories continue to experience a decline in international support as donors respond to the neighbouring humanitarian crises in Iraq and Syria. This is affecting the Palestinian Authority's capacity to meet its financial commitments, enact good public policy and generate economic activity. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency—a significant service provider and employer in the region—is also working in the context of increased need and reduced donor support. Operating in the territories is high risk because the environment is characterised by conflict, instability and the risk of aid funding being diverted to terrorism. The Palestinian Territories' program has strong measures in place to manage these risks.

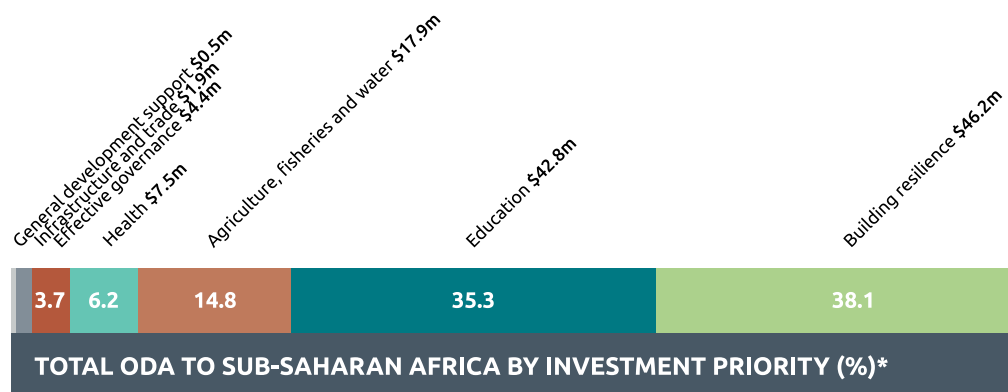
Australia has a long history of supporting Palestinians. Our development assistance is a tangible demonstration of our support for the Middle East peace process and aligns with the White Paper's priority to foster global and region stability.

Australia will implement its development program through a number of investments in 2018–19, including to the:

- » United Nations Relief and Works Agency, to provide essential health, education and protection services to more than 5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian Territories and Syria, including to address gender-based violence. Australia will provide \$20 million in 2018–19 as part of its \$80 million, four-year Strategic Partnership Agreement
- » Australia Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement Phase Three (AMENCA 3), to improve the competitiveness of the agriculture sector and create jobs for women and youth in line with the White Paper's focus on supporting inclusive economic growth
- » Palestinian Authority's reform program, through a contribution to a World Bank multi-donor trust fund, which focuses on improving the Palestinian Territories' public financial management to help more effectively undertake public service delivery, budget execution and expenditure rationalisation
- » Australia Awards, to support the next generation of Palestinian leaders and build public sector policy and management capacity within the Palestinian Territories and in the agricultural sector.

Sub-Saharan Africa

2018–19	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	31.8
Regional	15.0
Global	65.4
Other Government Departments	9.0
Total ODA to Sub-Saharan Africa*	121.1



* Difference in values due to rounding and/or percentages below 2 per cent are not labelled.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a diverse region with multiple development challenges. By 2030, Sub-Saharan Africa is set to make considerable progress against the SDGs in economic growth and strengthening domestic-resource mobilisation. However, most goals, including ending extreme poverty, reducing maternal mortality and access to energy, will need increased speed of progress by several multiples of current rates to reach SDG targets.

Australia's funding to Africa supports the White Paper's agenda to broaden our international influence in support of stability, prosperity and cooperation to address global challenges. Our program builds people-to-people links, supports economic engagement and promotes gender equality.

Australia has a clear national interest in the security, stability and prosperity of Sub-Saharan Africa. The growing population of the region presents increasing opportunities for trade and investment-led development gains. African countries are active members of global political and trade organisations and are important partners in addressing global issues such as economic growth, trade liberalisation, agricultural productivity and food security, transnational crime and counter-terrorism.

There has been encouraging progress in attaining gender equality in sub-Saharan Africa. The region has closed nearly 68 per cent of its gender equality gap and data suggests economic parity can be achieved in 60 years.⁴ While high female labour force participation rates are a factor in closing the region's gender gaps, women still tend to be concentrated in low-skilled roles. The focus of Australian Aid, particularly through Australia Awards Scholarships, is to promote women's access to higher skilled jobs and inclusive economic growth.

Australia delivers assistance through a range of trusted specialist partners, including NGOs, tertiary institutions, multilateral organisations, global funds and sectoral centres of excellence.

In 2018–19, Australian development program will support:

- » through Australia Awards, African leadership and human capacity development in the areas of extractives, agricultural and public policy, where Australia has extensive experience and expertise
- » enhanced agricultural productivity and food security, through better research, innovative technology, and improved access to key services
- » the provision of lifesaving humanitarian assistance for conflict and crisis situations, including protection, food security, nutrition, and water and sanitation, with a current focus on the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia and South Sudan
- » women's economic participation and voice in decision-making in their communities and region (for example, close to 50 per cent of Australia Awards will go to women).

⁴ World Economic Forum, *The Global Gender Gap Report 2016*.