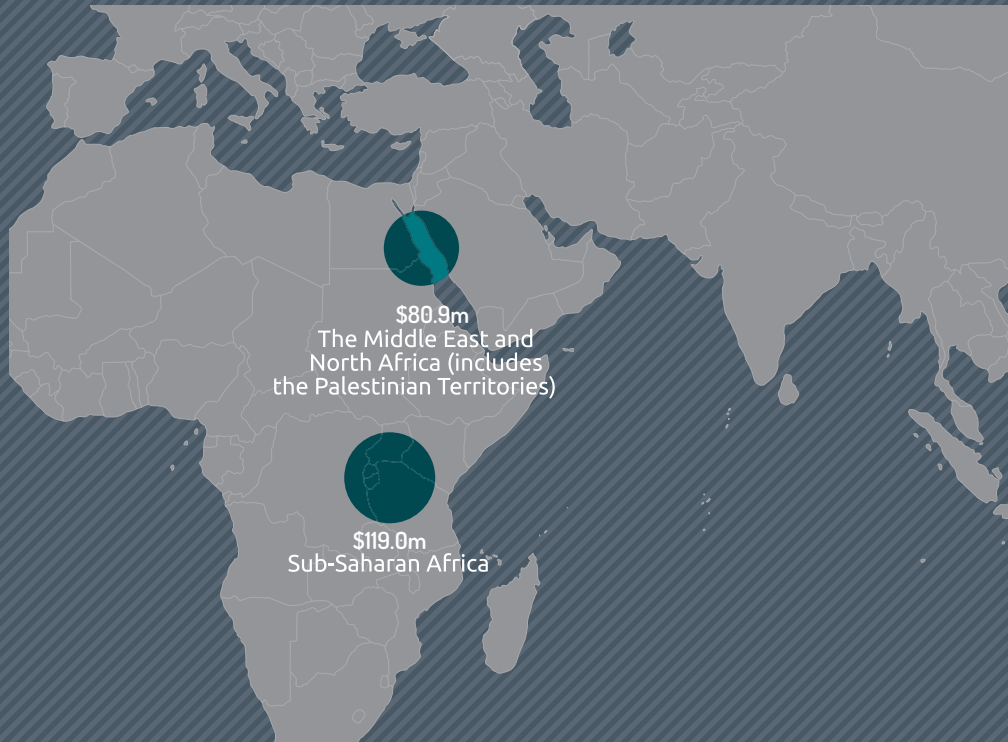
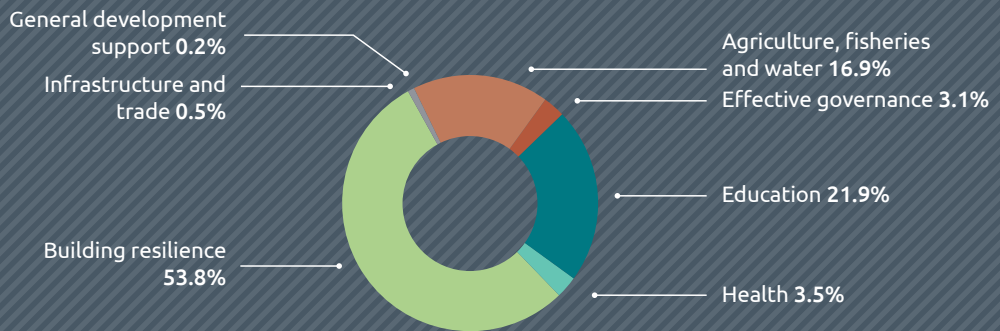


**2019–20 TOTAL AUSTRALIAN ODA
TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA***

\$199.8 MILLION



Australian ODA by investment priority



Program highlights



HUMANITARIAN NORTHERN IRAQ—COMMUNITY CENTRE SUPPORT
Supporting vulnerable people with protection, water, sanitation and health services
\$6.5m
2019–20



HUMANITARIAN SOUTH SUDAN AND SOMALIA
Providing lifesaving assistance to over 670,000 people
\$15m
2019–20



MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA AUSTRALIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS
Offering the next generation of leaders long-term educational opportunities
UP TO 294 people
2019–20

* Total Australian ODA, from all agencies and programs, attributable to partner countries and regions in the Middle East and Africa.

THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Australia's commitments in the Middle East and Africa in humanitarian assistance, mining governance, agriculture, and human capacity development contribute to regional stability and economic growth.

Australia's investments in the Middle East and Africa focus on regional priorities in development, economic growth and stability. Australia partners with trusted multilateral partners and NGOs to deliver assistance to vulnerable communities, with a focus on Iraq, the Palestinian Territories, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria. Our development assistance fosters people-to-people and institutional links and is building our reputation as a reliable partner.

Case study: Australia Awards in the mining sector

Since 2016, Australia Awards Scholarships and short courses have trained 267 emerging leaders in Africa's mining sector in governance, environmental protection, and occupational health and safety.

In 2018, Australia's Abuja High Commission collaborated with Ms Fatima Maikore, a graduate of the Australia Awards Scholarships, to host a Women in Mining conference in Nigeria. Presidents

of Women in Mining associations from Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana participated, alongside more than 120 women from the private sector and Nigerian state mining groups. The new Permanent Secretary of Nigeria's Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Mrs Georgina Ehuriah, joined the conference, in her first public engagement.

Ms Maikore completed a Managing Mine Closures short course delivered by Murdoch University in partnership with South Africa's University of Cape Town and Northwest University of Potchefstroom.

On return to Nigeria, she established a working group in the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development to improve working conditions of artisanal miners, initiated a formal registration of artisanal miners and stone breakers working informally in the Ebonyi and Kaduna states, and trained 40 (including 18 female) artisanal miners on safety and use of protective equipment. Ms Maikore has also published articles on sustainable mining and the group is a foundational member of the Association of Mine Closure Ambassadors which promotes reclamation of land and watercourses. The Association received an Australia Awards grant in January 2018 to promote and implement international mine closure best practice.

ABOVE: Australia Awards alumni, Ms Fatima Ibrahim Maikore, delivering onsite safety training at Malali Quarry, Kaduna State, Nigeria. Photo: DFAT



294
awardees

ACROSS 21 COUNTRIES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND AFRICA



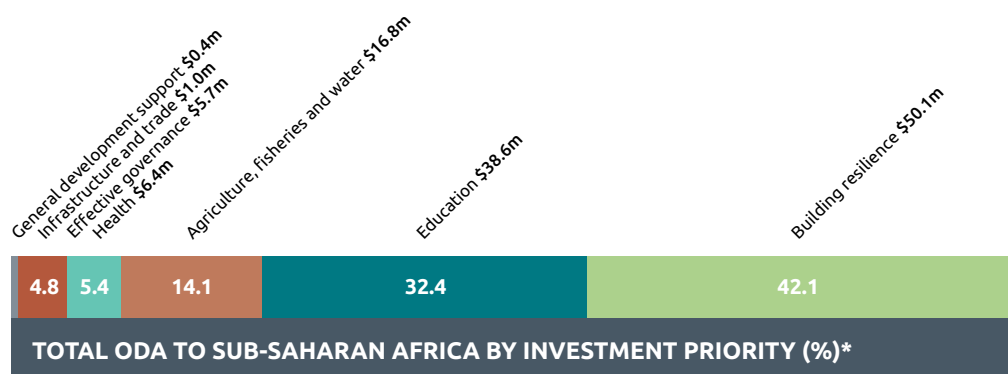
45%
females

AUSTRALIA AWARDS
SCHOLARS ON AWARD
IN 2019*

* data as at 31 January 2019

Sub-Saharan Africa

2019–20	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	31.8
Regional	7.1
Global	72.4
Other Government Departments	7.6
Total ODA to Sub-Saharan Africa*	119.0



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

Approximately 120 Australia Awards alumni will participate in Women in Leadership training in 2019

Australia has a clear national interest in the security, stability and prosperity of Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2017–18, Australia’s two-way goods trade with Africa was valued at \$10.7 billion. Africa’s projected population growth, and rapid rates of urbanisation and technological change, place it firmly within our long-term thinking on how we pursue our global interests. Australia values African countries’ active membership of multilateral organisations. African countries are important partners in addressing global issues such as economic growth, trade liberalisation, agricultural productivity and food security, transnational crime and counter-terrorism.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a large and diverse region comprising nations at very different stages of economic development and stability. The World Bank forecasts GDP growth of around 3.4 per cent for Sub-Saharan Africa in 2019, based on reduced policy uncertainty, improved investment in large economies and continued robust growth in the non-resource intensive countries. Per capita growth is forecast to remain well below the long-term average in many countries, yielding little progress in poverty reduction. African nations confront development and governance challenges with a number experiencing protracted humanitarian crises and conflicts.

Australia’s development assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa makes a difference by focusing on sectors where our expertise can add value—extractives, agricultural productivity and public policy. Our investment in African capacity development through the Australia Awards Scholarships builds social and academic networks with Australians and Australian institutions. For example, the Government of Mauritius has established partnerships with five Australian tertiary institutions. These partnerships are intended to support Mauritius to become a regional hub for educational excellence. The Australia Awards Scholarships promote Australian expertise, enduring institutional links and generates goodwill to facilitate our economic engagement.

Australia delivers assistance through trusted specialist partners, including NGOs, tertiary institutions, multilateral organisations and global funds.

In 2019–20, the Australian development program in Sub-Saharan Africa will support:

- » around 450 Australia Awards Scholarships and short-term courses as well as professional development opportunities for alumni across the continent
- » 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, particularly in the extractives, agricultural and public policy sectors.

Case study: Building mining governance capacity for mutual benefit

Australia’s development assistance investments in Sub-Saharan Africa focus on areas of shared interest and where we have world-class expertise. The extractives sector is an example where Australian and African mining investment and exploration have mutual benefits. According to the Australia Africa Minerals and Energy Group, one in 20 companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange has an investment in Africa. In turn,



Africa has around 30 per cent of the world’s minerals.⁶ Minerals accounted for an average of 70 per cent of total African exports and about 28 per cent of GDP.⁷ For many African countries, mineral exploration and production is key to economic growth and poverty alleviation.

Australia’s Direct Aid Program supports projects designed to build the capacity of African countries in mining governance, environmental protection and improving occupational health and safety practices. Partnering with mining companies demonstrates Australia’s best practice in these areas.

In 2017–18, Australia provided \$40,000 to a project in Zamfara State, Nigeria, to reduce the use of mercury in small scale gold mining. Pack Nigeria, an NGO, worked with the Zamfara Women Miners Association and the Miners Association of Nigeria, to introduce chemical-free gold mining equipment to mining partners and technical assistance on safer, more efficient and responsible mining practices for 85 artisanal miners. In Ghana, Australia provided \$27,500 to the University of Mines and Technology to deliver a stakeholder workshop on *How to Control Illegal Mining Activities*, in collaboration with the Ghana Ministry of Mines. The workshop was an important activity in a five-year project led by the Ghana Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to reduce illegal mining activity in Ghana.

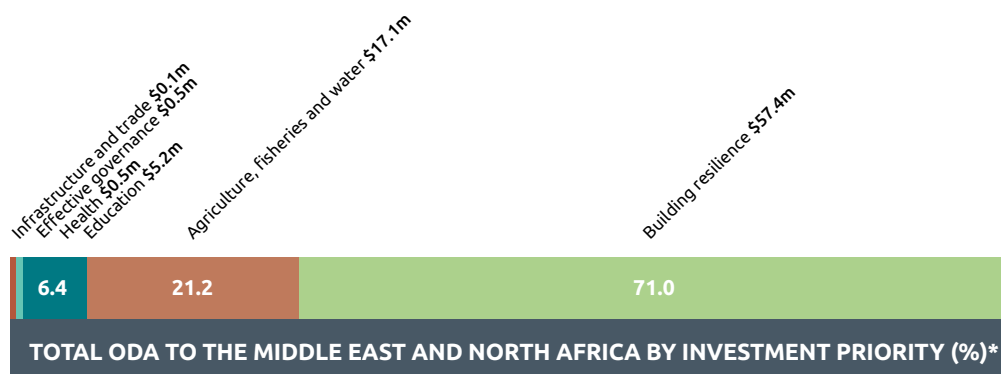
ABOVE: Australia’s Direct Aid Program supports introduction of mercury free artisanal gold mining in Zamfara State, Nigeria. Photo: DFAT

6 African Natural Resources Centre African Development Bank Group, ‘Catalysing Growth and Development through Effective Natural Resources Management’, 2016.

7 *ibid.*

The Middle East and North Africa

2019–20	
Program	Budget Estimate \$m
Country	20.5
Regional	2.4
Global	57.8
Other Government Departments	0.1
Total ODA to The Middle East and North Africa*	80.9



Iraq and Syria

After more than eight years of conflict in Syria, humanitarian and protection needs remain significant. In Syria, 13.1 million people need humanitarian assistance—5.8 million are children and 6.6 million are internally displaced. Another 5.6 million Syrian refugees live in the surrounding region. More than 91 per cent of refugees live in host communities outside of formal refugee camps.

Australia's package of assistance began in 2016–17 and addresses the immediate humanitarian and longer-term needs of Syrians. The Syria Package focuses on humanitarian assistance, as well as education and livelihoods support in neighbouring refugee hosting countries (Jordan and Lebanon), to promote a more sustainable future for populations affected by the crisis. Australian support has provided emergency supplies and shelter for Syrian refugees, as well as food and medical assistance.

Approximately 6.7 million people in Iraq remain in need of humanitarian assistance. An estimated two million remain displaced. Protection of civilians remains the key humanitarian challenge. Australia is providing a \$100 million package of assistance for Iraq, focused on humanitarian assistance, stabilisation and reconciliation. The package has a strong protection outlook, particularly for women, girls, and people with disability, and aims to foster activities that promote social cohesion. For example, it has supported improved access for communities to water and sanitation and hygiene kits and provided reproductive health care services.

More information can be found in the Building Resilience section.

The Palestinian Territories

The Palestinian Territories—comprising the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—remains one of the most economically disadvantaged regions in the Middle East. Australia’s development assistance to the Palestinian Territories is a demonstration of Australia’s practical and genuine commitment to a two-state solution where Israel and a future Palestinian state exist side-by-side in peace and security.

Australia’s development assistance to the Palestinian Territories will continue to provide development and humanitarian support in 2019–20. We will focus on basic services for Palestinian refugees, sustainable economic growth, and humanitarian needs for vulnerable Palestinians.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that all Australian development funding is used for its intended purposes. We have a zero-tolerance approach to any funding or support to terrorist-affiliated organisations. Australia’s development assistance is subject to rigorous processes and systems to ensure that all activities are comprehensively monitored and proactively managed. We have started using third parties to monitor some Australian development activities where access for Australian staff is problematic.

Australia will implement its development program in the Palestinian Territories through partnerships and programs, including, but not limited to, the:

- » United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which plays a crucial role in maintaining a degree of social and economic stability for more than 5 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank. Australia will provide \$20 million in 2019–20 as part of its \$80 million, four-year Strategic Partnership Agreement
- » United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ Humanitarian Fund, which will continue to provide education, health, livelihood opportunities and protection for Palestinian refugees in Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the West Bank and to improve living conditions in refugee camps
- » Australia Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement Program Phase 3, which will 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
- » Australia Awards Scholarships at Masters level which will enable the next generation of Palestinian leaders to influence their future and their institutions’ future. These awards will also support the next generation of Palestinian leaders and build public sector policy and management capacity in the agricultural sector.