



Australian Government



Australia and Africa: Partners into the future



Cover image: A young Zimbabwean student learns in a classroom at the *Albert Street School*, part of the *Central Methodist Mission* in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2009. The six-storey inner city Methodist church in the centre of Johannesburg has been transformed into a home and community for more than 2000 refugees and homeless people. Australia has provided assistance for teachers and much needed refurbishments at the mission.

Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice

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Published by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canberra, January 2012.

This document is online at www.ausaid.gov.au/publications

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Designed by Great Impressions

Printed by Bluestar

Reprinted June 2012

Australia and Africa

*“If you want to go fast – go alone.
If you want to go far – go together.”*

Australia recognises the important role African countries play in world affairs and is committed to strengthening and expanding its partnerships within the region.

A 2010 memorandum of understanding between Australia and the African Union Commission sets out a solid framework for enhanced cooperation in trade and investment, peace and security, development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, food security, climate change, and governance and capacity building. Australia is also working cooperatively with African sub-regional bodies.

Bilateral links are also significant. Australia has diplomatic relations with every African state, including the recently established state of South Sudan, and these are supported by increasing high-level engagement. In 2009, the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, visited nine African states, and Australian foreign ministers, other senior ministers and members of parliament are now regular visitors to the region. Australia is also welcoming a growing number of high-level visitors from African states. In 2011 alone, around 60 African heads of state and ministers participated in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth and 11 African ministers attended the annual Africa Down Under conference on mining.

In recognition of the central role African countries—collectively and individually—play in major international issues, the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, has appointed five special envoys to enhance engagement with African states and regional organisations on the United Nations agenda. Each of these envoys has travelled extensively across the continent to meet with governments and to collaboratively identify long-term strategies for bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.

Political ties with Africa are underpinned by thriving commercial links. Australians know Africa’s future holds great promise. This is reflected in the continuing growth of Australian trade and investment with African states, particularly in the mineral resources and education sectors. Australia’s prosperity has been secured through industries that are



School children wave Australian flags to welcome Australian Governor-General Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, as she arrives at the airport in Gaborone, Botswana in March 2009.

Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice

important to the African region today, including agriculture, mining, forestry and fisheries, and we are keen to share our expertise with our African partners.

Australia is committed to helping African nations meet the Millennium Development Goals, but Australia also knows from its own experience that a nation's future is built on the capacity of its people and institutions. At CHOGM, Prime Minister Julia Gillard launched initiatives on food security and mining for development, which include a focus on partnerships in Africa. Australian development assistance across Africa has tripled since 2007–08 and will continue to increase. Australia has funded more than 4000 scholarships in the region since 1960. An additional 2750 Australia Awards scholarships will be offered to Africans between 2011 and 2013.

Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr meets with Permanent Representatives to the United Nations from (L-R) Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Benin and Gabon.

Photo: Robert Sirotko



Africa and Australia: fast facts

- ▶ Australia has diplomatic relations with every African country.
- ▶ Australia and the African Union Commission signed a memorandum of understanding in 2010.
- ▶ Around 200 Australian resource companies are engaged in about 600 projects across 40 African countries.
- ▶ Australia's trade with the region has grown at six per cent a year over the past decade. Goods from Least Developed African countries enter Australia duty and quota free.
- ▶ Australian development assistance for the region has tripled since 2007–08 and will continue to increase.
- ▶ Australia Awards for Africa will offer at least 2750 scholarships between 2011 and 2013.
- ▶ Australia has provided more than 65 000 peacekeepers to United Nations and multilateral missions since 1947. This includes participation in 22 missions across Africa since 1960.



Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, arrives in Botswana in 2009.

Photo: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Australia's former Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd and his South Sudanese counterpart, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister, Lt Gen Nhial Deng Nhial, sign a joint communique establishing diplomatic relations between Australia and South Sudan in 2011.

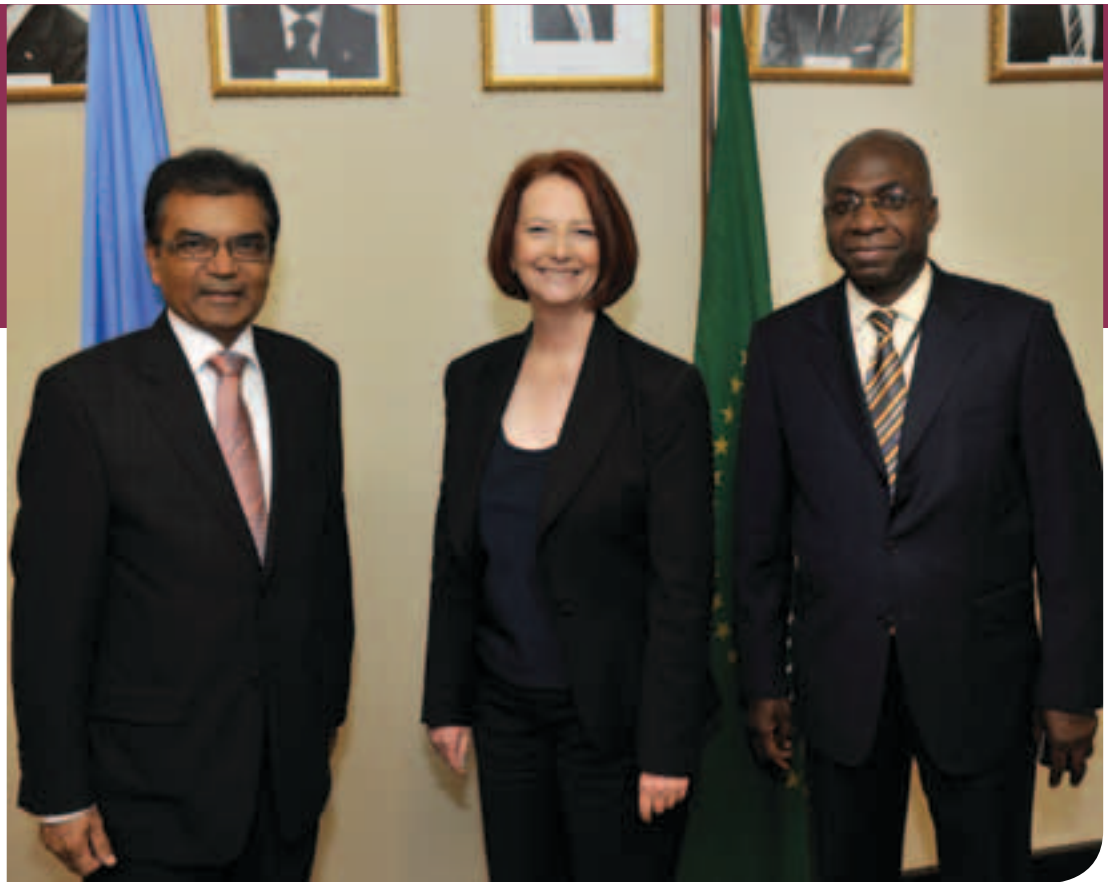
Photo: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Partners on United Nations reform

Africa's important role in the world should also be better reflected in the councils of the world. We support reform of the UN Security Council to ensure it reflects the 21st century and to ensure it is strong, effective and properly representative of all regions of the world. Australia has therefore consistently and actively supported Africa's position for greater representation on the UN Security Council, including two permanent seats on the Security Council and for an equitable proportion of new elected seats. Achieving this will bolster the UN Security Council's ability to perform its mandate for international peace and security.

Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard with the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations and the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations in New York in March 2011.

Photo: AUSPIC



Partners responding to climate change

Both Africa and Australia are continents of dry and unpredictable climates, challenging landscapes and vast distances. As the evidence of climate change grows and natural disasters become more frequent, addressing the challenge posed by climate change is one of Australia's highest priorities.

At the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban in South Africa, Australia was active in negotiations to establish a framework convention on climate change that will include all major emitters. Australia is also leading by example in this regard by introducing a domestic carbon price in July 2012.

Australia supports small developing states to ensure their voices are heard. As well as playing a central role in the formation of the Cancun Agreements, which built on the Copenhagen Accord, Australia is a founding member of the Cartagena Group. Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Greg Combet, helped establish the new Green Climate Fund to support developing country actions on climate change while Australia's former Foreign Minister, Kevin Rudd, was a member of the United Nations Panel on Global Sustainability.

As well as ongoing support for the Global Environment Facility, Australia also contributes to the Least Developed Countries Fund supported by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and helps finance the World Bank-led Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (which, in Africa, currently targets Mozambique, Niger and Zambia). Support has also been provided to develop the Southern Africa Development Community's Climate Change Plan of Action.



President of the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP), Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, after the Durban Package was adopted at the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference in December. Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Greg Combet, announced \$25 million at the conference to help African nations manage water resources, boost food security and climate-proof agriculture.

Photo: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Durban Conference 2011, South Africa

Partners in prosperity



Prime Minister Julia Gillard and President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria launch the Australia Nigeria Trade Investment Council during the President's visit to Australia in November 2011. Nigeria is Australia's second largest trading partner in Africa.

Photo: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Trade and investment with African countries has surged. Australian trade with the region has grown at an average of six per cent a year over the last decade. The export of education services to Africa has increased by more than 80 per cent since 2005 and is now Australia's second largest export to the region, behind only mineral ores and concentrates. Australian mineral and resource companies have more projects in Africa than any other region in the world, which is a testament to confidence in Africa's future.

Australian companies are committed to long-term engagement with African partners and the Australian Government is working to make it easier to do business. To encourage trade, Australia has implemented special duty and quota arrangements. Goods from Least Developed Countries in Africa enter Australia duty and quota free while other African countries receive developing country preferences on Australia's already low tariffs.

The African region is a significant economic force. Negotiations on a new trade bloc, which would integrate the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community, demonstrate African efforts to work cooperatively to maximise economic prospects. Australia supports such efforts by helping African trade organisations to take advantage of market openings, invest in human resource development, and open up and develop the private sector by supporting an improved business, trade and regulatory environment.

As an agricultural country and leader of the Cairns Group, Australia is a strong advocate for trade liberalisation and is committed to helping developing countries gain access to international economic opportunities. Despite obstacles to a conclusion of the Doha Round, Australia will continue to work for an ambitious, comprehensive outcome that liberalises trade, including agricultural trade, so that farmers in developing countries can participate in global markets. This is vital for both Africa and Australia.

Opposite: The annual Africa Down Under conference—a mining investment symposium held in Western Australia—is now the largest African business forum held outside of Africa. In 2011 it attracted more than 2000 delegates seeking to identify Australian investors and commercial partners.

Photo: Paydirt Media



Partners in peace and security

Australia works actively with the United Nations, African Union and key African countries to build peace, stability and security. Australia understands firsthand the importance of a stable and secure neighbourhood and has led operations in its own region, the Asia-Pacific. But Africa remains a focus for global peace and security efforts and Australia has much to learn from its continuing involvement with Africa.

Peacekeeping

Australia is the 12th largest contributor to the United Nations peacekeeping budget and some 65 000 Australians have served in peace and security operations since 1947. This includes Australian peacekeepers who have participated in 22 missions across Africa since 1960. Australian personnel are also seconded to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and have been seconded to the United Nations Office for West Africa and the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia.

Many African countries take on enormous burdens in peacekeeping operations. Australia helps develop Africa's peacekeeping capacity by providing equipment for the African Union Mission in Somalia, and also undertakes a regular program of headquarters training with the Eastern African Standby Force which so far has involved personnel from Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Australia also sponsors the participation of military personnel and defence civilians from African states in peacekeeping courses in Australia. In 2012, Australia hosted the United Nations Senior Mission Leaders Course in Rwanda and supported United Nations Military Observer Courses in Kenya and Rwanda.

Australia's work on protecting civilians will continue to be a key component of its engagement with African states on peace and security. Building on its experience in peacekeeping missions in the Pacific region, Australia was instrumental in developing draft guidelines for the protection of civilians in African Union peace support operations. In 2010, the Australian Government hosted the International Symposium on the Protection of Civilians in Conflict Zones in Addis Ababa where the proposed guidelines were considered.

Partners in combating piracy

Australia is hosting a counter-piracy conference in Perth in July 2012 as part of its commitment to international counter-piracy efforts. The conference will explore ways to help Somalia and other affected countries address the causes of piracy and will also compare the experiences of counter-piracy cooperation in other regions, including West Africa and South-East Asia. Australia assists international military efforts off the Horn of Africa by providing an Australian naval frigate and maritime patrol aircraft.



A boarding party from the Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Stuart comes alongside a boat seized by Somali pirates. Three crew members, who were being held hostage by Somali pirates off the Horn of Africa, were rescued.

Photo: Department of Defence

Peacebuilding



A deminer during training in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Australia has provided the UN Mine Action Service with funding for their demining work in the DRC.

*Photo: UNMAS/
Gwenn Dubourthoumieu*

Australia recognises the strong linkages between peace, security and development and is committed to supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives in Africa.

Australia served on the Peacebuilding Commission and is a major contributor to the United Nations Peacebuilding fund, which supports peacebuilding initiatives in a range of African countries including Liberia, Sierra Leone and Burundi.

Recognising the significant role women can play in preventing, managing and resolving conflict, Australia is also supporting work to strengthen women's capacity to participate in the peace and security dialogue in the Horn of Africa.

Disarmament

Australia shares the African Union view that the uncontrolled and unregulated spread of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives undermines peace, security and development. Australia has significantly increased its cooperation with African countries to this end, providing, for example, assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to manage weapon stockpiles and destroy small arms and light weapons. Together with African partners, Australia is playing a central role in developing an international arms trade treaty.

Australia has contributed more than \$11 million to reduce the threat and impact of mines in the African region and to help victims. Support has also been provided to Uganda and Guinea-Bissau to help meet their mine clearance deadlines under the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and similar projects in Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Sudan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are also being supported. As Chair of the Mine Action Support Group for 2012–13, Australia is helping to ensure donors are better-coordinated and more effective in supporting regional mine action needs.

Australia shares the goal of a nuclear weapon-free world and, as a signatory to the Treaty of Rarotonga (South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone), welcomes the Treaty of Pelindaba (African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone). Like Australia, Africa is a major source of uranium and is likely to become a significant supplier for the international civil nuclear energy market. As more countries move to develop nuclear power as an alternative energy source, Australian and African governments can work together to strengthen nuclear safeguards and export controls.

Partners in development

“The path is made by walking.”

Australia is helping African states to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Support is focused on African priorities, including those expressed through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. Australia seeks to make a practical contribution in areas where it has expertise: agriculture and food security, maternal and child health, and water and sanitation. Australia’s expertise in natural resource management also helps African countries ensure they reap the benefits of their natural resources. Underpinning Australia’s assistance is a focus on building the region’s own human resource capacity.

Australia’s long-standing development relationships with the countries of Africa have expanded greatly in recent years. Development assistance to the region has tripled since 2007–08 and will continue to increase. Australia has for example:

- ▶ provided 670 000 Kenyan schoolchildren with meals and more than six million people in Niger with food relief
- ▶ provided emergency support to civilians affected by conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo including food rations to nearly 20 000 people, essential supplies to 42 000 families, safe water to 170 000 people and better access to education for 20 000 children
- ▶ provided emergency water treatment chemicals and clean drinking water to help achieve a drastic reduction in the incidence of cholera in Zimbabwe—from over 98 000 cases and over 4200 deaths in 2008–09 to 1000 cases and 20 deaths in 2010
- ▶ helped establish free birth registration systems in Malawi and Mozambique, which resulted in an estimated 6.7 million Mozambique children being registered
- ▶ supported free fistula surgery for more than 2500 Ethiopian women.



A girl collects water from a stand pipe in Costa del Sol near Maputo, Mozambique in April 2009. The pipe was installed as part of the World Bank’s Water and Sanitation Program which is supported by Australia.

Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice

Food security



CSIRO's Africa Food Security Initiative is addressing climate change challenges to food security in Africa.

Photo: CSIRO

Australia is supporting African efforts to improve food security by boosting agricultural productivity, while meeting the immediate needs of vulnerable people when humanitarian crises occur.

In October 2011, Australia co-hosted a G20 workshop on re-energising global agricultural productivity to address the decline in global agricultural yields. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in the same month, Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard launched an initiative to establish an International Centre for Food Security to provide access to Australia's agricultural research and expertise in dryland farming, tropical agriculture, commercialisation of agricultural research, and water and soil management. The early focus will be on African states including through an international conference on food security in 2012.

Australia can be a harsh environment, with floods and drought, tropical storms and fires, and our farmers and scientists have learnt how to respond. Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) are working with African partners to advance agricultural productivity.

- ▶ In west Africa, CSIRO collaborates with the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development to increase the productivity and resilience of dryland farming in the Sahel, and is supporting projects in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Ghana, The Gambia and Benin.
- ▶ In east and central Africa, CSIRO supports Biosciences East and Central Africa to address food security challenges through cutting-edge molecular biology. For example, Australian science is helping to develop an effective vaccine to control the spread of disease affecting goats and sheep across Africa. Australia is also helping support up to 900 000 pastoralists in northern Kenya through the Hunger Safety Net Programme.
- ▶ In southern and east Africa, ACIAR is helping farmers to increase maize and legume productivity by 30 per cent. This project aims to benefit at least 500 000 drought-affected farmers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.
- ▶ In north Africa, Australia is supporting regional cooperation in dryland farming in Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Eritrea, Sudan and Mauritania, as well as improving farm water use in Egypt to increase agricultural productivity.



Women sell their produce at a market in Lilongwe, Malawi to generate income for their families. Australia is using its expertise and experience to help improve food security in African countries.

Photo: Stephen Morrison/Africa Practice

Humanitarian assistance and early recovery



An Australian funded World Food Programme food distribution site at Arbakeramso Village in the Wajir District of northern Kenya.

Photo: Scott Kelleher/AusAID

Australia's humanitarian assistance has increased markedly over the past five years with the number of African countries receiving assistance doubling between 2008 and 2010. Australia has provided emergency food supplies, shelter, essential health and education services, safe water and sanitation facilities, food security and livelihood assistance to people in crisis across Africa, including in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Libya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad and the Central African Republic.

Australia was one of the largest country donors to the Horn of Africa drought and famine relief in 2011. Response to the crisis was quick, with over \$142 million, including \$112 million in emergency relief and \$30 million to support the region's longer-term food security. An initiative where the Australian Government matched Australian public donations raised \$27 million for accredited aid agencies.

Australia is also supporting critical early recovery activities in countries recovering from conflict and natural disaster. For example, through King's College London, Australia is supporting the Humanitarian Futures Program to strengthen the capacity of the Economic Council of West African States and a number of member states to anticipate and respond to disasters in the region.

Australia is helping alleviate the humanitarian plight of refugees and those displaced by conflict, as well as the related burden often experienced by neighbouring countries, through one of the world's largest resettlement programs. African resettlement accounted for 25.2 per cent of Australia's offshore humanitarian program in 2010–11. The African Union's efforts to address the situation of refugees and internally displaced persons is welcomed, including through the Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.



Somali children at the Friends Primary School Ifo Refugee Camp in Kenya. Australian support is providing many children at the school with their first chance to receive an education.

Photo: Scott Kelleher/AusAID

Australian assistance to North Africa rapidly increased in response to events in 2011. In Egypt, Australia is providing support for agricultural productivity, job creation and mine action. An aid package for Tunisia is focused on agricultural capacity building and electoral support. In Libya, Australia was on the International Contact Group and was the third largest humanitarian contributor providing \$44.6 million in assistance to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs.

Nelson Mandela International Day

Australia was proud to work with South Africa to jointly present a resolution to the Human Rights Council to commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day. The resolution, which attracted a record 145 co-sponsors, celebrates Nelson Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity.



The Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Africa, the Hon Bob McMullan visiting the Irene Gleeson Foundation, Kitgum, Uganda. Ms Gleeson, an Australian, runs an orphanage and vocational programs for Ugandan children.

Photo: AusAID

Health, water and sanitation

Improving quality of life remains an important focus for Australia's development cooperation and this is achieved by improving access to high quality maternal and child health services, and by increasing access to safe water and sanitation.

Over the next five years, Australia's Maternal and Child Health Initiative will support further efforts to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health in eastern Africa by strengthening health systems, supporting midwifery training, improving basic obstetric and newborn care, and expanding access to family planning. Training will be provided for more than 1600 midwives and other health workers, more than 160 000 children will be immunised, and more than 325 000 people will be provided with access to family planning.

Australia will continue supporting the Addis Ababa Hamlin Fistula Hospital as it expands its program to prevent and treat obstetric fistula and deliver midwifery training. In collaboration with regional organisations, including the African Union, support will also be provided for continent-wide advocacy including the Maputo Plan of Action and Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa.

The founder of Ethiopia's Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Australian doctor Catherine Hamlin, sits with women who have received life-changing fistula surgery. The hospital was founded by Dr Hamlin and her husband in 1975, and Australia has supported its work for more than 25 years.

Photo: Lucy Perry/Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund Australia



As African countries continue to tackle the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Australia is a willing partner in efforts to unite global responses to the challenges. In New York in June 2011, Australia co-chaired with Botswana the negotiations on the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Australia is a strong supporter of the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, contributing \$240 million since 2004 and pledging a further \$180 million to the end of 2013. As a leader in HIV and AIDS research, Australia is working more closely with African states ahead of the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne in 2014.

Australia is a world leader in innovative water management solutions and is applying its expertise to help improve access to clean water and sanitation in southern Africa. Australia's assistance is aligned with and supports the priorities of the African Ministers' Council on Water including the 2025 Africa Water Vision.

With investments in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, Australia will intensify its efforts in selected cities, towns and regional centres. By 2015, Australia will provide another 1.3 million people with access to safe water by building and rehabilitating water supply systems and treatment plants.



Ugandan women care for a baby at a celebration of the help they've received through a legal aid clinic in Kawempe, 2009. The clinic raises public awareness and protects the legal rights of people affected by HIV/AIDS. It is run by Plan Uganda with assistance from Australia.

Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice

Partners in capacity building



An Australia Award participant applies techniques in geospatial analysis learned through a short-course program in Australia. Staff of the host organisation, NGIS Australia, travelled to Africa as a follow-up to the program that was run for participants from Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Liberia and Mozambique.

Photo: NGIS Australia

“Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

Drawing on its own experiences, Australia’s development cooperation is focused on building the capacity of African institutions and individuals through sectoral programs, a significantly expanded scholarships program, targeted technical assistance and the placement of Australian volunteers.

In helping to build African capacity, Australia draws on its excellent education and research institutions, best practice public sector institutions, extensive experience in developing and managing natural resources, and agricultural expertise in areas of common interest with African states.

Australia Award scholarships support long-term human resource development, providing recipients with the skills and knowledge to drive, change and influence policy. Between 2011 and the end of 2013, Australia will offer at least 2750 Australia Award scholarships in priority areas for African countries and areas where Australia can make a difference, including agriculture, mining and public policy. Australia Award scholarships complement the nearly 13 000 African students currently at Australian schools, colleges and universities who are either funded privately or by their own governments. Technical assistance aims to respond to development challenges specific to African countries in areas where Australia has expertise, including natural resource management, trade policy, economic governance and public sector reform. The focus is on exchanging skills and knowledge through partnerships between Australian and African organisations, short-term training and exchange programs, workshops and research. For example, Australia has delivered:

- ▶ short-term training to senior African personnel in dryland farming, post-harvest management, livestock, water harvesting and irrigation
- ▶ trade and diplomacy training for officials from 15 African countries through a partnership between Australian and African institutions.

It will also:

- ▶ deliver electoral management training for up to 42 African countries through a partnership with International IDEA, the African Union, the Australian Electoral Commission and l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- ▶ provide targeted professional development programs to officials in up to 52 African countries by 2015–16, including in public policy, diplomacy, financial and revenue management.



Selma Amwaama, an Australia Award recipient from Namibia, recently completed a Master's in Public Health (Nursing) at the University of Western Australia.

Photo: AusAID



Australia Awards recipient Chala Turo is set to undertake an agricultural PhD at Curtin University in Perth.

Photo: AusAID

Parallels in Australian and African agriculture

Australia Awards recipient Chala Turo is set to undertake an agricultural PhD at Curtin University in Perth.

In Ethiopia, Chala obtained an undergraduate degree in dryland crop science and a master's degree in agriculture (plant pathology), and then joined the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research to work on coffee pathology. With the diversification of its agricultural sector, Ethiopia exports coffee, oil crops, pulses and beef.

Chala says that pulse crops in Ethiopia are very important because people who can't afford beef need the amino acids found in chickpeas, lentils and field peas.

"The problem with field peas is they get attacked by a fungus, which destroys the foliar parts of the plant and reduces productivity in local crops by up to 22 per cent, including occasional complete crop failure," Chala said.

"This is also a challenge in Australia where it can reduce outputs by 18 per cent."

Researchers at Curtin University are pursuing new initiatives in fungal plant pathology, giving Chala the opportunity to study in this field with Australian experts.

"I'm very interested in studying with them because they work both in the field and in laboratories, and we can work out ways to boost the resistance of field pea plants for this pathogen."

Australia will provide \$17.3 million between 2009 and 2013 to help African countries develop effective law and justice frameworks. Australian experts provide tailored assistance, for example, training for forensic specialists and workshops to strengthen legal frameworks and capacity. The Australian Federal Police provides support and training under the auspices of the Southern African Regional Forensic Science Network.

Under this initiative:

- ▶ 39 in-country bilateral workshops have been delivered to members of financial intelligence units, border and customs officers, revenue authorities and the broader law enforcement community
- ▶ eight African countries are being provided with bilateral technical assistance
- ▶ a regional workshop on international best practice for financial intelligence units has been delivered to representatives from 14 African countries
- ▶ Australian visits have been sponsored for information technology and financial intelligence unit training.

As development cooperation has increased, so have the ties between Australian and African institutions, laying the foundations for ongoing contacts and partnerships. Australian universities have more than 40 agreements with African institutions, in some cases partnering to deliver programs in Africa. Monash University for example has over 2200 students at its subsidiary in South Africa, while Edith Cowan University provides degrees through the Australian Studies Institute in Kenya.

In 2011–12, the Australian Government is supporting 165 volunteers in 11 African countries, and plans to expand this to more countries in the future.



A scientist works in a laboratory at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya. Australia provides funding to the Institute through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), to improve African food security.

Photo: Kate Holt/Africa Practice

Partners in mining for development

Africa, like Australia, has vast mineral reserves. If these are well managed and regulated, they could contribute substantially to growth and development in the region. Australia is a world-leader in minerals production and in managing the resources sector, its benefits and its impacts. Australia is well-placed therefore to help African governments make informed choices about how to develop a sustainable mineral resources sector, and one which ensures that Africans benefit from their mineral wealth.

Australian resource companies hold a reputation for integrity, best mining practice, environmental sustainability and sensitivity to the needs of local communities. Around 200 Australian companies have about 600 projects underway in exploration, extraction, processing and mining services, which are spread across 40 countries and account for some \$20 billion of current investment, as well as prospective growth of \$45 billion.

In addition to Australian private sector investment in Africa, the Australian Government is also working through its development cooperation program with a range of countries to support their management of the mineral resources sector.

*Sallim Adegboyega Salaam
from the Nigerian Ministry of
Mines and Steel Development
with a BHP representative at the
Mount Whaleback mine near
Newman, Western Australia.*

Photo: AusAID





Mining governance study tour participants from Sierra Leone, Zambia and Burkina Faso at the Bullant gold mine, 65 Kilometres north-west of Kalgoorlie, a major gold mining town in Western Australia.

Photo: Steve Levitt

For example:

- ▶ Since 2008, Australia has provided more than 100 short-course Australia Awards for officials from more than 20 African countries to study mining governance in Australia. A further 120 awards will be delivered in 2012.
- ▶ In 2011, Australia supported more than 120 officials and Ministers from 19 African countries to share and learn from Australia's mining expertise through study tours to Australia. The Australian mining industry supported these tours, in particular Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Alcoa, Newmont Mining and KCGM, which included hosted site visits. More study tours will be delivered in 2012.
- ▶ Australia is supporting up to 90 African participants to attend the August 2012 International Geological Congress and related mining governance workshops in Brisbane.

Australia is the leading donor to the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative which sets and manages a global standard for the full verification and publication of company payments and government revenues from oil, gas and mining.

In October 2011, Prime Minister Julia Gillard launched the \$127 million Mining for Development initiative to support sustainable mining in developing countries. Key components of the initiative include an International Mining for Development Centre to provide practical advisory, education and training services, as well as a program to link Australian governments and academia with counterparts in Africa and elsewhere.

Partners in the community



A Sudanese refugee with an English language volunteer tutor in Melbourne.

Photo: Victorian State Government

Made up of more than 180 nationalities, Australia is a vibrant multicultural country dedicated to social cohesion, harmony and tolerance.

Multiculturalism recognises the right of all Australians to enjoy their ethnic identity and cultural heritage, including language and religion, and the right to equal treatment and opportunities. For the more than 265 000 Australians of African descent who bring their experiences, qualities and skills to Australia, this means they also have the freedom to retain their cultural, linguistic and religious ties to Africa.

The growing number of African organisations and institutions, media outlets, festivals and programs in Australia play a vital role in maintaining and promoting African culture in Australian society, and support new people-to-people linkages.

Like many African countries, Australia recognises the importance of acknowledging historical injustice. Reconciliation is fundamental to maintaining peace and security and promoting equality, dignity and self-determination. In 2008, in a turning point in Australian history, the Australian Parliament formally apologised to Indigenous Australians for past mistreatment and injustices. It was deliberately symbolic, but also deeply personal for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Australia's High Commissioner to South Africa, Ann Harrap, with local children at a Footy Wild clinic.

Photo: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



**Australian
AID** 

