



Australian Government
AusAID



THE WORLD BANK

Partnership Framework

between

Australian Agency for International Development

and

World Bank Group

Dated September 23, 2011

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1. This Partnership Framework represents a statement of intent by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“IBRD”), the International Development Association (“IDA”) and the International Finance Corporation (“IFC”), international organizations established by Articles of Agreement among their respective member countries, (together, the “World Bank Group” or “WBG”), on one part, and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) (collectively, the Parties), to collaborate in the achievement of common objectives on the basis outlined below.

I. Overview of the Partnership Framework

2. The Parties have a strong and growing relationship built around a common commitment to support international development and poverty alleviation. A stronger partnership between the Parties is consistent with the global aid effectiveness agenda and is expected to improve the effectiveness of both organizations.
3. The WBG’s mission is to: (i) fight poverty with passion and professionalism for lasting results; and (ii) help people help themselves and their environment by providing resources, sharing knowledge, building capacity, and by forging partnerships in the public and private sectors. The WBG aims to reduce poverty, improve living conditions, and promote sustainable and comprehensive development in its developing member countries. It achieves these objectives by providing loans, concessional financing, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing services to its developing member countries and through partnerships with other organizations, and to direct lending and advisory support to the private sector. The WBG has an interest in collaborating with multilateral and bilateral development institutions to improve the effectiveness of development assistance, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
4. Australia has extensive development experience and country presence, particularly in the East Asia, Pacific and South Asia regions. Australia’s aid program is increasing, to 0.5 percent of GNI in 2015-16. In addition to the East Asia and Pacific regions, Australia is expanding its development assistance programs in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa. As a result, Australia is a growing partner in the World Bank Group.
5. The strategic direction for Australia’s development assistance program was articulated in July 2011 in *An Effective Aid Program for Australia: Making a real difference – Delivering real results*. It states that the fundamental purpose of Australian aid is to help people overcome poverty and that Australia will focus its effort in areas where it can make a difference and where Australian resources can most effectively and efficiently be deployed. Five core strategic goals have been established:

saving lives; promoting opportunities for all; sustainable economic development; effective governance; and humanitarian and disaster response. New accountability mechanisms have been established, including a Transparency Charter, to show what results are being produced, with the aim to show value for money and maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of Australian aid.

6. Consistent with their respective mandates, the Parties desire to collaborate effectively on investment projects and analytical and knowledge work at country, region, sector and global levels. In line with the principles of the global aid effectiveness agenda, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action, and the Cairns Compact, the Parties' common objectives are to have the most effective aid program possible—to get the best value for money and to make a real difference in reducing poverty on the ground. In so doing, the Parties will reaffirm their commitment to help developing countries accelerate the achievement of the MDGs.

II. Purpose of the Partnership Framework

7. This Partnership Framework provides a structure within which the Parties can develop and undertake collaborative activities at country, regional, and global levels in order to pursue more effectively the shared objectives identified in Section I above.
8. This Partnership Framework provides the opportunity to strengthen the relationship between AusAID and the WBG by:
 - a) conducting six-monthly senior-level strategic discussions focused on areas of joint collaboration;
 - b) providing guidance to country and thematic teams on current and future joint priorities;
 - c) providing a channel to elevate issues of concern and ensure their early resolution;
 - d) providing a mechanism to identify and track measures to strengthen the visibility of our joint activities; and
 - e) providing a basis on which to assess the effectiveness and results of joint collaboration.

III. Principles of the Partnership Framework

9. This Partnership Framework is guided by the following principles in line with each Party's respective policies and procedures:

- a) pursuing mutually beneficial cooperation opportunities that are judged most likely to deliver real, measurable and lasting results for poor people in developing countries;
- b) creating professional relationships characterized by mutual respect, honesty and trust, and a sharing of ideas and communication at all levels;
- c) recognizing the depth and range of international development experience of each Party;
- d) consulting on issues of shared interest, and to systematically consider opportunities for cooperation in countries of common interest;
- e) respecting the different mandates, institutional settings, and organizational cultures of each Party;
- f) undertaking evidenced-based and context-specific approaches to engaging partner countries;
- g) pursuing best practices in international development policy-making and program delivery; and
- h) committing to improve aid effectiveness and deliver development assistance in line with the global aid effectiveness agenda, having due regard to value for money.

IV. Areas of Collaboration

- 10. Under this Partnership Framework, the Parties affirm their commitment to the following areas of collaboration:
 - a) to assist developing countries reduce poverty, achieve sustainable development and realize the MDGs;
 - b) to help address the special needs of small states and help accelerate the achievement of the MDGs, particularly in the Pacific where MDG progress is uneven;
 - c) to support the implementation of the 2009 Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Cooperation in the Pacific;
 - d) to build the capacity of developing partner governments to accelerate and sustain the delivery of basic services, including infrastructure, health, education, and water and sanitation;

- e) to support development of the private sector, including through deeper collaboration with both the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation;
 - f) to help countries manage the environment, water and natural resources, the effects of climate change and vulnerability to natural disasters;
 - g) to intensify policy and program collaboration on cross-cutting issues, such as gender and disability;
 - h) to undertake joint research and analysis;
 - i) to strengthen partner governments' performance and results measurement and accountability for development outcomes; and
 - j) to build public awareness of the Parties' joint priorities and outcomes (refer to Section V).
11. The Parties can utilize a variety of instruments to implement their shared objectives, such as: (i) collaborative activities, including joint analytic, research and advisory activities; (ii) co-financing agreements; and (iii) trust funds. These instruments will be developed and implemented subject to separate agreements, as needed, for the specific project, activity, or trust fund.
12. Current priority areas for cooperation are further specified in Annex 1. These may be amended as necessary by written agreement of both parties.

V. Building public awareness of joint priorities and outcomes

13. The Parties acknowledge the important contribution that effective communication can make to building understanding of the rationale for, and the development impacts of, the AusAID-WBG Partnership. AusAID is committed to building understanding of international development challenges and of the objectives and results of the Australian Government's aid program.
14. The Parties will share information and capitalize on opportunities to build public awareness and understanding of their collaboration, their joint priorities, and of the results of their collaboration, including by showcasing contributions to development.
15. The Parties will ensure that the key messages focus on outcomes and on clear and tangible results. The focus of communications should be the impact of the partnership activities on reducing poverty, rather than funding inputs or administrative milestones.

16. Under this Partnership Framework, the Parties will undertake the following activities to ensure effective communication about the partnership and its outcomes, in areas where AusAID and the WBG cooperate through financial and/or policy and practical means, and in activities and projects within the scope, meaning and purposes of this Partnership Framework:
 - a) In co-financed projects the Parties will ensure each of their contributions are acknowledged in media releases, project signings, speeches, project briefs and other promotional materials (refer to Annex 2). Such acknowledgement may include the Party's logo.
 - b) The Parties will work together to identify priority co-financed projects on a semi-annual basis in order to develop case studies illustrating aid effectiveness that each can distribute through their outreach channels.
 - c) The WBG will use high-level visits, report launches, key events and media outreach to showcase the collaboration and ensure awareness and understanding of the partnership on the part of domestic constituencies within Australia. AusAID will reciprocate, when appropriate.
 - d) The Parties will advise each other of upcoming visits of senior officials to respective headquarters such that speaking opportunities may be arranged as appropriate to showcase the work and outcomes of the collaboration.
17. Where AusAID contributes to a multi-donor trust fund managed by the WBG, AusAID's contribution and the results achieved by the program supported will be made visible in the context of broader visibility initiatives for the trust fund.

VI. Implementing the Partnership

18. The Parties agree to hold a High-Level Partnership (HLP) meeting approximately every six months to discuss implementation of this Partnership Framework. The consultations will review progress and agree upon priorities for collaboration in countries, regions and sectors where Australia and the WBG both work (as per Annex 1).
19. Following the consultations, clear guidance will be issued identifying the country and thematic areas that are priorities for the Parties, consistent with the Parties country and sector strategies.
20. The Parties will continue to strengthen working relationships at the country and sector level in agreed areas of priority.

VII. Monitoring of the Partnership

21. The Parties will monitor and assess their performance in implementing their commitments under this Partnership Framework periodically and the effectiveness of the partnership in achieving the Parties shared objectives. These assessments will be shared and discussed at the regular HLP meetings. Ongoing monitoring of the objectives will be undertaken by the Parties with agreed changes made as appropriate.

VIII. Dispute resolution

22. During the term of the Partnership Framework, the focal points of the two organizations will be promptly notified of all problems that impact adversely on the potential of the two organizations to collaborate effectively. The focal points will take appropriate action towards an amicable resolution in those cases where these are not resolved at the country level by country-level focal points.
23. Any disputes arising over the interpretation or application of this Partnership Framework will be resolved through mutual discussion and consultation.

IX. Limits to Arrangement

24. This Partnership does not constitute an agreement by either Party to enter into or provide support for any specific activity. Specific arrangements for individual activities will be set forth in written concept notes to be formulated by the Parties and, as appropriate, separate agreements signed by each Party.
25. Any sharing of confidential information between the Parties will be subject to their respective policies and procedures relating to the disclosure of confidential information.
26. No relationship exclusive of a third Party or Parties will be established between the Parties, whether under the Partnership Framework generally or with respect to any specific activities or projects undertaken pursuant thereto unless explicitly agreed to by the Parties under a separate agreement. Neither Party is restricted in any way from engaging a third Party or Parties to pursue independently of the other Party the objectives described in this Partnership Framework, except that such engagement with a third Party or Parties will not conflict or otherwise unduly interfere with the implementation of this Partnership Framework or any activities or projects undertaken pursuant thereto.
27. Nothing in this Partnership Framework will be construed as creating legally binding relations, a joint venture, an agency relationship, or a legal partnership between the Parties.

28. Nothing in or relating to this Partnership Framework will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of any of their rights, privileges and immunities under their respective Articles of Agreement, international conventions or applicable laws.

X. Disclosure and Publicity

29. The Parties consent to disclose to the public this Partnership Framework and information with respect to the collaborative activities contemplated herein in accordance with the Parties' respective disclosure policies.

XI. Term

30. This Partnership Framework will come into effect upon signature by the Parties on the date set forth below. It will have an initial term of five years.
31. At the end of the initial term and the succeeding term, if any, of this Partnership Framework, a joint assessment by both Parties will be carried out to review the results and lessons learned from their collaborative activities. The views of stakeholders on the nature and progress of activities or projects may be obtained by the Parties as may be deemed necessary. The Parties will discuss and share any conclusions reached which may have a bearing on the Parties' collaboration under this Partnership Framework. On the basis of such assessment, the Parties may keep in effect, modify or terminate the Partnership Framework as provided for below.

XII. Modification and Termination

32. This Partnership Framework may be modified or terminated at any time by mutual written consent of the Parties. Furthermore, this Partnership Framework may be terminated by either Party at its sole discretion with 60 days prior notice in writing to the other Party.

XIII. Focal Points

33. The Parties will designate responsibility for the implementation and coordination of activities hereunder to a senior officer, who will act as a focal point for such purposes.

For WBG

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In witness whereof, the Parties have caused this Partnership Framework to be executed as of the date written below:

**AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

**INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION**

Hon Kevin Rudd MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Robert B. Zoellick
President

Signed on this 23rd day of September 2011

Signed on this 23rd day of September 2011

Annex 1 – Current Priority Areas for Collaboration

The Parties intend to work together in pursuit of shared international development priorities. Specific priorities are identified below. The list is indicative rather than exhaustive, and may be modified over time so that amendment of the Partnership Framework is not necessary.

Priority Area	Objective
Development cooperation in the Pacific	Strengthen development coordination and improve development results in the Pacific region consistent with the principles of the Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Cooperation in the Pacific.
Development cooperation in South East Asia	Strengthen development coordination and improve development results in the South East Asia region, particularly in Indonesia and the Mekong.
Development cooperation in South Asia	Strengthen cooperation and intensify efforts in the region, particularly in fragile and post conflict countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
Development cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa	Strengthen development cooperation and improve development results in Sub-Saharan Africa aligned with the World Bank's new Africa Strategy.
Private Sector Development	Increase cooperation to promote the private sector as a means of addressing development priorities, including through PPPs in the development of the private sector in the Pacific and Asia regions. Deepen potential for collaboration between AusAID and IFC in advisory and investment activities.
Engagement on sustainable development	Strengthen and expand sectoral cooperation in water, energy, transportation, disaster management, urban development, natural resources and agriculture.
Small and Fragile States	Explore further opportunities for collaboration and the exchange of experience and expertise of working in small and fragile state environments, including a specific focus on initiatives to promote private sector development.
Climate change adaptation and mitigation	Enhance cooperation on global action on climate change and other environmental issues, including collaborative initiatives in the Asia and Pacific regions.
Gender and people with disabilities	Ensure strengthened focus within both organizations on addressing issues relating to gender and people with disabilities in policy development and program implementation
Education	Explore further opportunities for collaboration and sharing experience and expertise in relation to education, and working on joint programs.

Annex 2 – Communication

Both Parties will identify opportunities for raising awareness and understanding of the partnership and its development impacts, and take steps at the headquarters, regional and country levels to effectively use these opportunities. Specific opportunities are identified below. The list is indicative rather than exhaustive, and will be modified over time.

Branding	AusAID will provide to the WBG up-to-date logo files, including both domestic and international versions, for use in relevant materials mentioning Australia’s assistance. AusAID will provide instructions for use of these logos, and the WBG will seek AusAID approval for all branded materials prior to distribution.
Project and funding announcements	The WBG will invite AusAID or an Australian Government representative to participate in the announcement or opening of co-funded projects. When promoting the event, the WBG will acknowledge Australia’s financial and program support.
Public events	<p>The WBG will advise AusAID of upcoming visits of senior officials to Australia so that speaking opportunities may be arranged as appropriate to showcase the work and outcomes of the partnership. Similarly, AusAID will advise the WBG of visits by its senior officials to WBG headquarters or country offices for the same purpose of arranging speaking opportunities.</p> <p>The WBG will advise AusAID of relevant public events that may provide opportunities for promoting awareness and understanding of the partnership. This may include the launch of the WBG’s flagship publications in Australia. Appropriate events may include significant developments in the partnership, such as project launches/funding announcements, or other related events.</p>
Praxis Discussion Series (World Bank process)	Available to television, radio and internet audiences both nationally and internationally, AusAID and the WBG will use the Praxis Discussion Series to highlight the partnership and key messages. Being involved with this series provides the opportunity to showcase AusAID’s and the WBG’s work on a monthly basis. AusAID promotional material will be available at all of the sessions, and staff from AusAID and the WBG will work together to exploit all possible communication opportunities.

Media	<p>Harnessing various forms of media including print, television, radio and online will be a vital tool in effectively communicating key messages.</p> <p>The WBG will be proactive in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing newsworthy and relevant material and appropriate case studies and stories for distribution in Australia through media contacts and outlets; • Providing targeted media liaison for feature stories; and • Ensuring cooperation with AusAID on the WBG media releases on relevant matters, and will work with AusAID where appropriate to produce joint media releases.
Websites, Intranets and Social Media	<p>The WBG and AusAID will publish approved case studies on both websites that discuss the practical outcomes of the partnership.</p> <p>Media releases will be made available on the WBG and AusAID websites shortly after their release, as well as approved case studies.</p> <p>The partnership will also be promoted on the AusAID intranet.</p> <p>The use of social media like Twitter and Facebook will be explored by the parties and will mention the partnership, where appropriate.</p>
Publications	<p>The WBG and AusAID will work together to produce at least one article for AusAID’s Focus magazine per annum. Focus magazine is produced three times a year and distributed nationally in print and via the AusAID website. The articles will highlight case studies relating to the partnership. The WBG will provide the written material and images.</p> <p>The WBG will include information about the AusAID-WBG partnership in relevant publications such as fact sheets, annual reports, feature stories and case studies in the annual Development Effectiveness Review.</p>
Public figures and dignitaries	<p>The WBG will identify opportunities for public figures to promote partnership outcomes. Public figures and dignitaries may include community leaders with a particular interest in AusAID and the WBG’s collaborative work, such as representatives of communities and governments in which AusAID-WBG programs are being delivered.</p>
Conferences/ seminars	<p>The Parties will identify conferences and seminars which may include opportunities for presentations on positive partnership outcomes. Materials promoting the partnership may be distributed at these events.</p>