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## Australia's Mining for Development Initiative







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# The Mining for Development Initiative

## Prime Minister's Foreword



Australians know ours is not just a lucky country—we are fortunate to have rich mineral resources while we also work hard to spread the opportunities these resources create to all our people.

We are one of the world's largest, most successful exporters of mineral commodities and recognised as a world leader in sustainable mining—mining that delivers long-term benefits to the economy and host communities, and to the natural environment as well.

Australia is also a generous country. We are keen to share our experience with partner countries to help them gain the most from mining's opportunities and reduce the risks an endeavour like mining will always involve.

In resource-rich countries, the mining sector can unlock significant socioeconomic benefits, reduce poverty and support progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. How much these benefits drive development depends heavily on whether countries rise to the institutional and political challenges.

Our mining companies are working in many developing countries, helping them to build a sustainable mining sector. We have developed a reputation for operating in an open and fair way and for being a good corporate citizen, responsible, ethical and faithful to the law.

Australia's new \$127.3 million Mining for Development Initiative builds on our position as a global leader in extractive industries, helping developing countries use their rich resources to grow their economies and provide social benefits to their people.

Australia's aid program is making a real difference and delivering real results through an effective and coordinated approach to promoting sustainable mining in developing countries.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia Gillard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underlining the name.

**The Hon Julia Gillard MP**  
**Prime Minister**  
October 2011